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STAR WARS™ DOCTOR APHRA

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STAR WARS™

DOCTOR APHRA

APHRA

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DOCTOR APHRA

APHRA

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MARVEL

001

GILLEN
WALKER
LARROCA
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DELGADO

STAR WARS™ DOCTOR APHRA

APHRA

Book I, Part I

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by the cruelty of Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those used to operating on the fringes, there is much potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Doctor Aphra is no stranger to risk in the pursuit of both credits and thrills; from her recent acquisition of a pair of homicidal droids, to her ever-increasing debt to Wookiee warrior Black Krrsantan, and most of all, her secret work for Darth Vader, Imperial enforcer and Dark Lord of the Sith.

Now, having successfully faked her own death at Vader's hands, Aphra is back to doing what she does best: locating and liberating rare artifacts, droid and Wookiee companions by her side....

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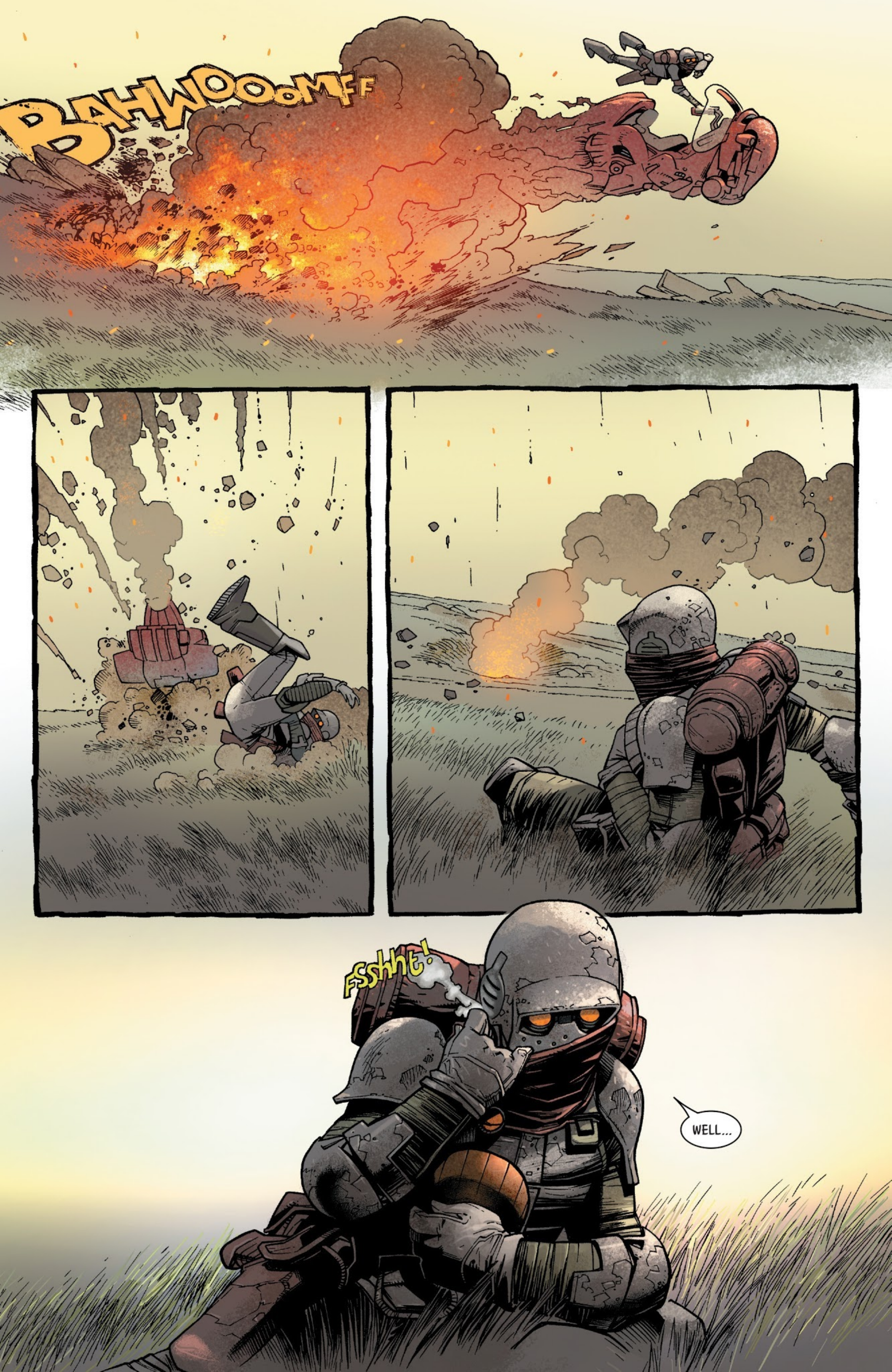
YES!
HMMMMMMMM
YE--
MMMMMMMM
NO!
RAAAOOOAAR
SCROOOAAHHH

GRRROOOAAAAAR
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP


BAHWOOOMFF
FSSHHT!
WELL...

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.

SURE WAS.
APHRA?
WAIT, YOU--

FTOW

THANKS!

STAR WARS

DOCTOR APHRA

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BLEEP!
OH, YES, SHE'S ALIVE. I DO INDEED OWE YOU MONEY.
NO NEED TO GLOAT, BEETEE.
MASTER APHRA!
I TAKE IT BY YOUR CONTINUED BREATHING YOU MANAGED TO AVOID BEING BACKSTABBED BY THAT RUFFIAN, ULBIK TAN?
OH, NO. HE BACKSTABBED ME AND LEFT ME FOR DEAD. BUT I WASN'T!
THEN I BACKSTABBED HIM AND LEFT HIM FOR DEAD. BUT HE IS!
AND I'VE PICKED UP A SOUVENIR!

OH, EXCELLENT, MASTER. THAT IS A BEAUTIFUL PIECE...
IT FEELS STRANGE TO ACTUALLY BE DEALING IN ARTIFACTS AGAIN. THIS IS AN OBJECT OF GENUINE CULTURAL IMPORTANCE.
STEALING-- I MEAN, RECOVERING-- SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE USED TO KILL PEOPLE IS KINDA NOVEL.
BLEEP!
QUITE, BEETEE. WE HAVE TO DISAGREE, MASTER APHRA.
IT'D SUFFICE AS A FAIRLY STURDY BLUDGEON.
GUYS, KNOCK IT OFF.
WHERE'S KRRSANTAN?
ABOARD THE NEW ARK ANGEL, MASTER APHRA.
PERFORMING THE FINAL PREPARATION FOR OUR DEPARTURE.
GOOD. I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFO--
OH.
HEY, APHRA...

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YOU CAN'T CHARM YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS, APHRA.
I'M NOT TRYING TO GET OUT OF PAYING! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH I VALUE OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP.
I OWE YOU-- IN A METAPHORICAL AS WELL AS THE VERY LITERAL SENSE THAT BRINGS YOU THREE LOVELY GENTLEMEN CALLING.
I'M OFF TO SELL THE ARTIFACT I'VE RECOVERED, AND WHEN I'M BACK, THE SYNDICATE WILL HAVE THEIR MONEY!
WELL, WHY NOT CUT OUT THE MIDDLEMAN AND JUST HAND THAT OVER?
NOT A GOOD IDEA. THIS ISN'T LIKE PAWNING STOLEN STARSHIP PARTS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ARCHAEOLOGIST ACCREDITATION YOU'D GET 0.2% OF ITS VALUE, TOPS.
I CAN GET BACK WITHIN THE WEEK--HELL, IT COULD SELL INSTANTLY, AND I'LL BE BACK *TOMORROW*.
AND IF IT SELLS FOR AS MUCH AS I THINK IT WILL, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A PAYMENT...
...WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WHOLE LOAN IN ONE GO!
HMM. THEN I THINK WE'LL TAKE IT AND FIND AN ARCHAEOLOGIST OF OUR OWN TO SELL IT.
HAND IT OVER.
I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT YOU MAY NOT HOLD OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP IN THE SAME HIGH ESTEEM AS I DO.
I AM *HURT*, SOO-TATH.

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GGGGRRRKHHH!

ON THE OFF CHANCE YOU AREN'T FLUENT IN WOOKIEE, THAT'S A COLORFUL DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THIS BOWCASTER WILL DO TO YOU IF YOU DON'T REFRAIN FROM DISMEMBERING MASTER APHRA.

NOW, I ALSO OWE BLACK KRRSANTAN *A LOT* OF MONEY AND HE'S NOT GOING TO LET YOU ENDANGER HIS INVESTMENT.

YOU STILL NEED TO PAY US.

OKAY-- WANT TO WAGER ON THE PAYMENT?

MY BIG AND FURRY VERSUS YOURS. NO WEAPONS. DOUBLE OR QUITS.

HMM.

OKAY, WHY NOT--

BOTCH
RRAAAAAAAAAAAH!!
KRUNCH
WHUMP
CRUMP
WHOK!!
ENOUGH, KRRSANTAN.

I'M SORRY-- I'LL ADD A LITTLE EXTRA TO THE NEXT PAYMENT TO GET YOUR GIGORANS FIXED UP WHEN I GET BACK.

AND I WILL BE BACK. TRUST ME!

I'LL BE HERE AND WAITING, APHRA. JUST HURRY.

WE ALL KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HIDING FROM IMPERIAL ATTENTION...

...IT'D BE A SHAME IF THEY HAPPENED TO FIND OUT YOU WERE HERE.

HOW RUDE.

PFFT. ONLY VADER ACTUALLY CARES, AND IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S LOOKING FOR ME. STILL...IT'S PROBABLY AN EMPTY THREAT.

HOW LONG UNTIL YOU CAN GET THE *ARC ANGEL II* UP AND RUNNING?

HHHHJHH!

REALLY? *HOURS?* GREAT.

MASTER APHRA...

...IF WE DO HAVE A LITTLE SPARE TIME, BEETEE AND I NEED TO PICK UP SOME SUPPLIES FROM TOWN. MAY WE BE EXCUSED?

SURE, GUYS.

BRING ME BACK AN ICE POP.

CERTAINLY, MASTER.

Later...
OH, THAT GOES RIGHT THROUGH ME.
BETTER GO AND FEED THE SARLACC...
AHEM.
MAY WE HAVE YOUR ATTENTION FOR A FEW MOMENTS, PLEASE?
WH-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? GOT AN OIL LEAK?
DROIDS AREN'T MEANT TO BE BACK HERE.
DROIDS AREN'T MEANT TO DO MANY THINGS, SIR.
I RARELY LET THAT STOP ME.
STAB

WH-WHAT? WH...
WHKKKKHHH.
NOTHING. JUST A NEUROTOXIN.
IT WILL BE MOSTLY PAINLESS AND QUICK, MORE'S THE PITY. IT'LL LOOK LIKE A HEART FAILURE.
I'M SURE THE POISON WOULD BE DISCOVERED ON A MORE DEVELOPED WORLD, BUT FRANKLY, HERE, LIFE IS CHEAP.
CERTAINLY FAR CHEAPER THAN THIS RATHER LUXURY-RANGE NEUROTOXIN.
YOU HAVE MADE A CRUCIAL, FATAL MISTAKE. I AM ENJOYING MY TIME IN THE COMPANY OF MASTER APHRA.
AND AS LONG AS THAT REMAINS TRUE, I DO NOT BELIEVE I'LL LET ANYTHING RISK INTERFERING WITH THAT.
LET'S HOPE THE GANGSTER RUFFIAN WHO REPLACES YOU IS MORE POLITE, HMM?
BLEEP!
NO, YOU CAN'T BURN THE BODY, BEETEE.
THAT MAY GIVE AWAY THAT HIS DEATH WASN'T ENTIRELY NATURAL.
BLEEP!
NO, SPONTANEOUS HUMAN COMBUSTION IS NOT A THING.

Archaeo-Prime,
The Cosmatanic Steppes.
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET A BUYER SWIFTLY, MASTER APHRA?
LET ME EXPLAIN THE COSMATANIC STEPPES. IT IS A LAYER OF MANTLE SUSPENDED ABOVE A GAS GIANT. IT'S BEEN A CENTER OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIGS AND SCAVENGING FOR THE LAST HUNDRED YEARS OF THE HISTORICAL ART RUSH.
THE KEY QUESTION? "WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT HERE?" AND MAYBE--JUST MAYBE--THE SECRET IS IN THE WONDERFUL LITTLE PIECE WE FOUND.
EVERY BIG PLAYER WILL BE LOOKING AT ANY VERIFIED ARTIFACT, LET ALONE SOMETHING AS GOOD AS THIS...
CHANCES ARE, BY THE END OF THE DAY, WE ARE GOING TO BE RICH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU *CAN'T* SELL IT?!

I'M SORRY, MS. APHRA--

DOCTOR APHRA!

MS. APHRA FOR NOW. YOUR DOCTORATE HAS BEEN **SUSPENDED.**

UNTIL THE CONFUSION HAS BEEN CLEARED, THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION IS UNABLE TO VERIFY ANY OF YOUR FINDS.

THIS HAS TO BE A MISTAKE. I RECOVERED THE ABERSYN SYMBIOTES OF BOOTHI XII!

CHECK AGAIN...

I'M SORRY, MS. APHRA. I'VE **TRIPLE-CHECKED.**

YOU ARE NOT A DOCTOR, ERGO, I CANNOT ASSIST YOU.

NEXT!
THIS IS GOING TO GET NOTHING ON THE BLACK MARKET.
I...THIS IS TERRIBLE.
OH, MASTER. IT MUST BE TERRIBLE TO HAVE YOUR CREDENTIALS QUESTIONED.
THUNK THUNK
IT IS!
I MEAN, OBVIOUSLY I CHEATED.
BUT HOW DID THEY FIND OUT?
RRRRRRRRRR
WELL, YOUR QUESTIONABLE MORALITY WAS ALWAYS GOING TO CATCH UP WITH YOU EVENTUALLY, BELOVED...

...SO PERHAPS IT'S LUCKY THAT SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU WAS THE PERSON WHO UNCOVERED YOUR ETHICAL LAPSE.
AND NOW WE CAN LOOK TO YOUR SPIRITUAL SALVATION...
DAD.
OH.
To be continued in DOCTOR APHRA #2...

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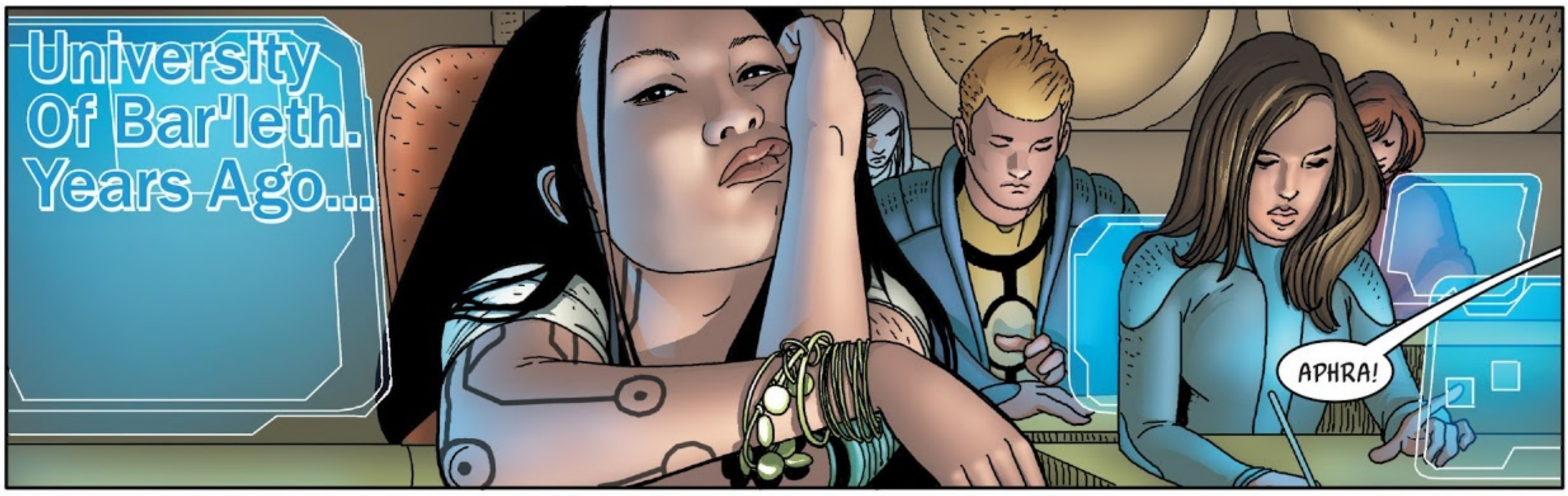
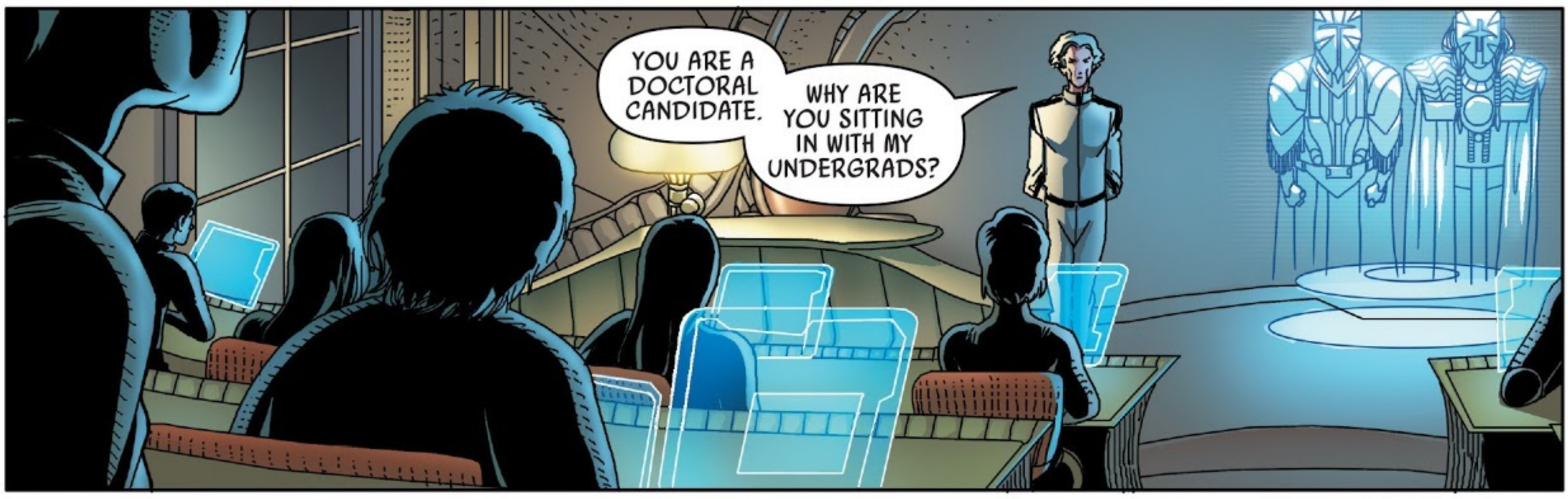
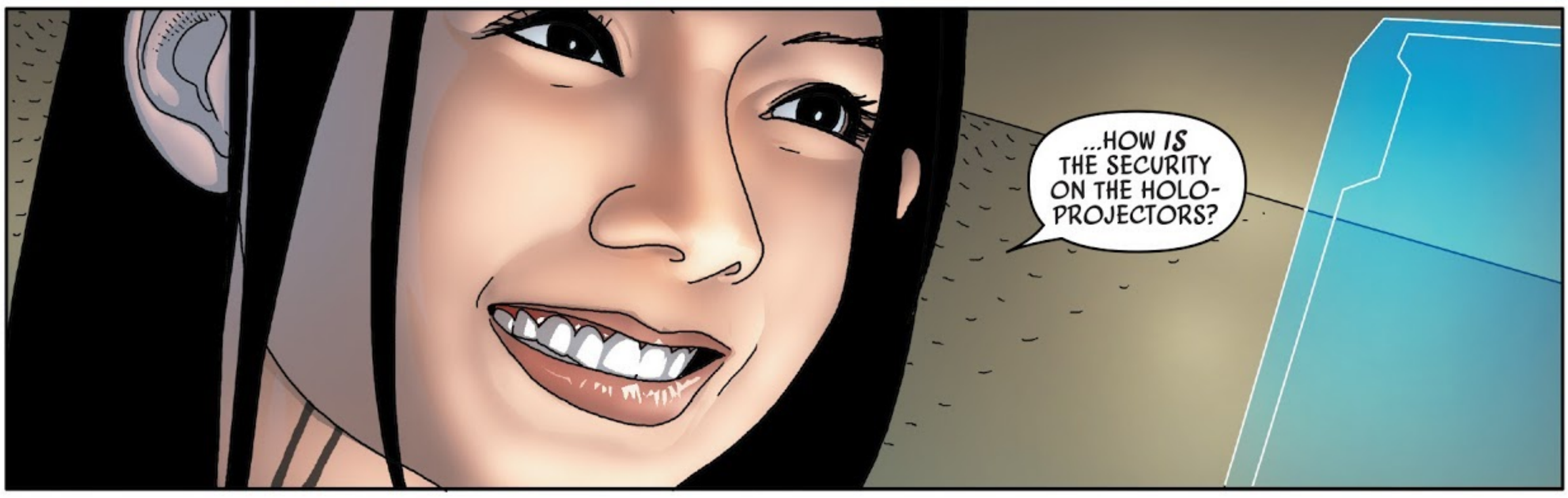
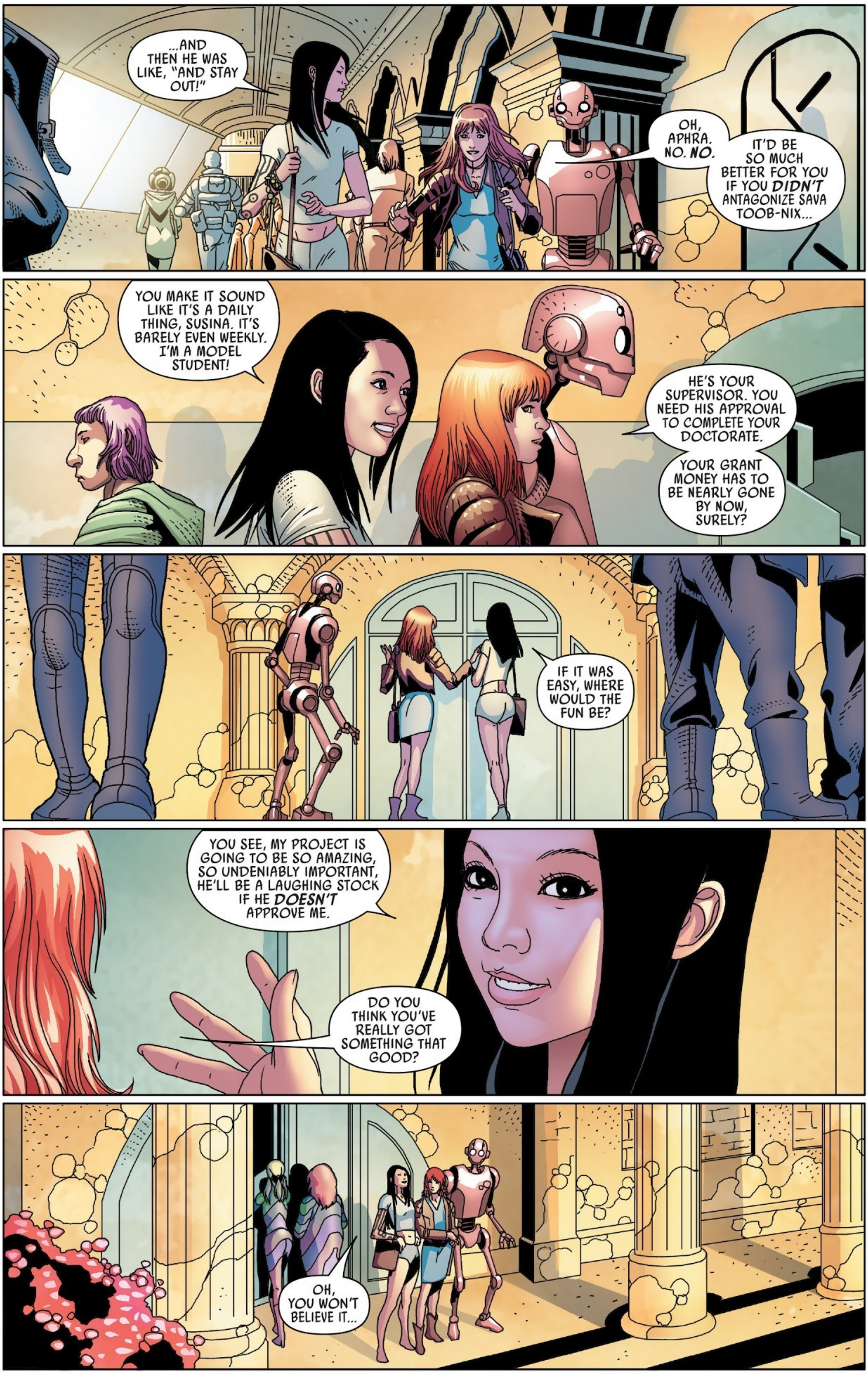

University Of Bar'leth. Years Ago...
APHRA!

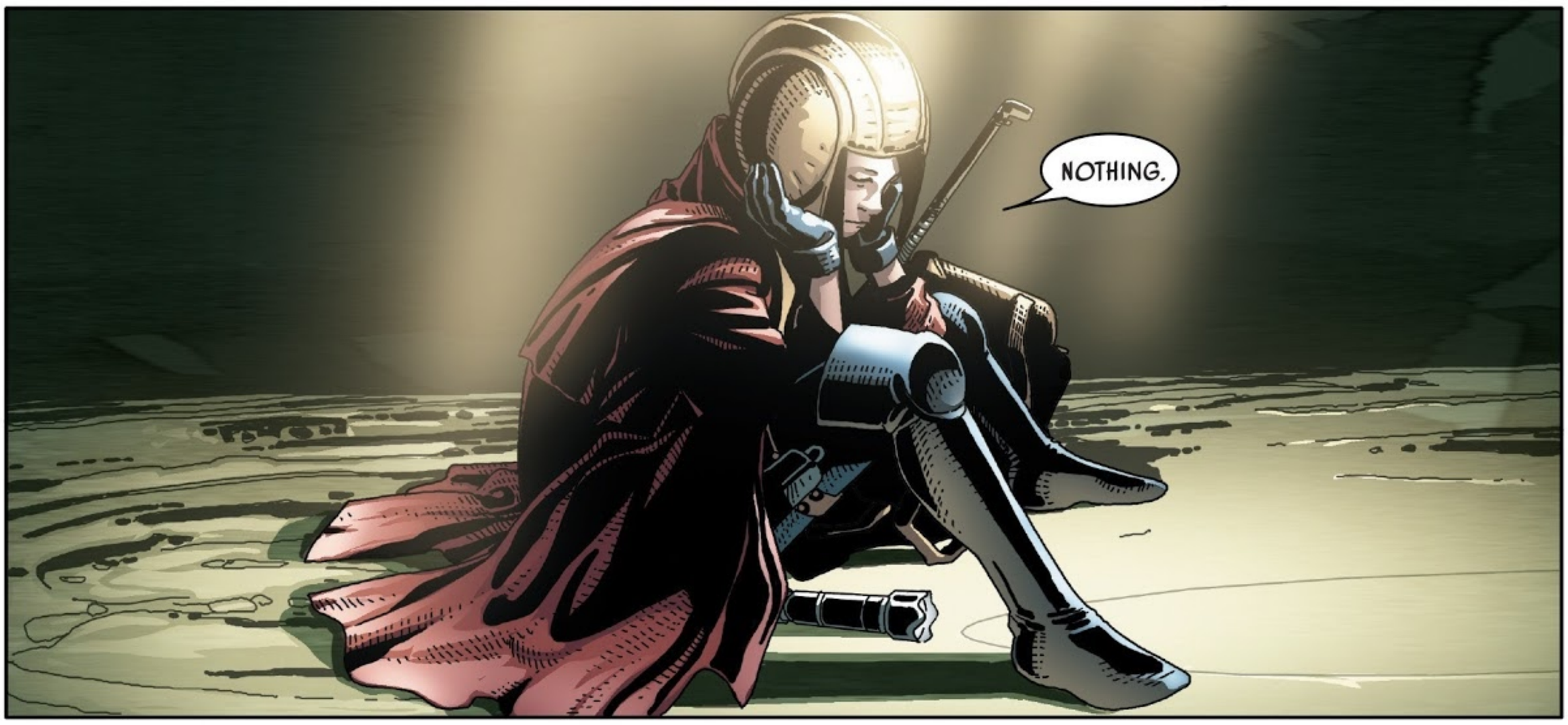

YOU ARE A DOCTORAL CANDIDATE.
WHY ARE YOU SITTING IN WITH MY UNDERGRADS?

I'M A CONCERNED IMPERIAL CITIZEN, SIR.
I WAS WONDERING...
KLLK


...HOW IS THE SECURITY ON THE HOLO-PROJECTORS?


...AND THEN HE WAS LIKE, "AND STAY OUT!"
OH, APHRA. NO. NO.
IT'D BE SO MUCH BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU DIDN'T ANTAGONIZE SAVA TOOB-NIX...
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S A DAILY THING, SUSINA. IT'S BARELY EVEN WEEKLY. I'M A MODEL STUDENT!
HE'S YOUR SUPERVISOR. YOU NEED HIS APPROVAL TO COMPLETE YOUR DOCTORATE.
YOUR GRANT MONEY HAS TO BE NEARLY GONE BY NOW, SURELY?
IF IT WAS EASY, WHERE WOULD THE FUN BE?
YOU SEE, MY PROJECT IS GOING TO BE SO AMAZING, SO UNDENIABLY IMPORTANT, HE'LL BE A LAUGHING STOCK IF HE DOESN'T APPROVE ME.
DO YOU THINK YOU'VE REALLY GOT SOMETHING THAT GOOD?
OH, YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT...

"BOOTHI XII IS A PLACE WITHOUT HISTORY. FARMERS, DOING THEIR SIMPLE LIFE THING, FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
"ARCHITECTURE HASN'T CHANGED FOR LONGER THAN THE REPUBLIC EXISTED...
"...BUT MUCH MORE OF IT BENEATH THE SURFACE.
"I'VE LOCATED A VAULT, AND I THINK I'M GOING TO GET PROOF OF A PREVIOUS CIVILIZATION THERE. A PRECURSOR RACE...SOMETHING.
"I'M GOING TO WORK MY WAY IN AND EXPLORE IT, CENTIMETER BY CENTIMETER...
"...AND IF I'M RIGHT, IN THE MIDDLE, YOU KNOW WHAT I'LL FIND?"



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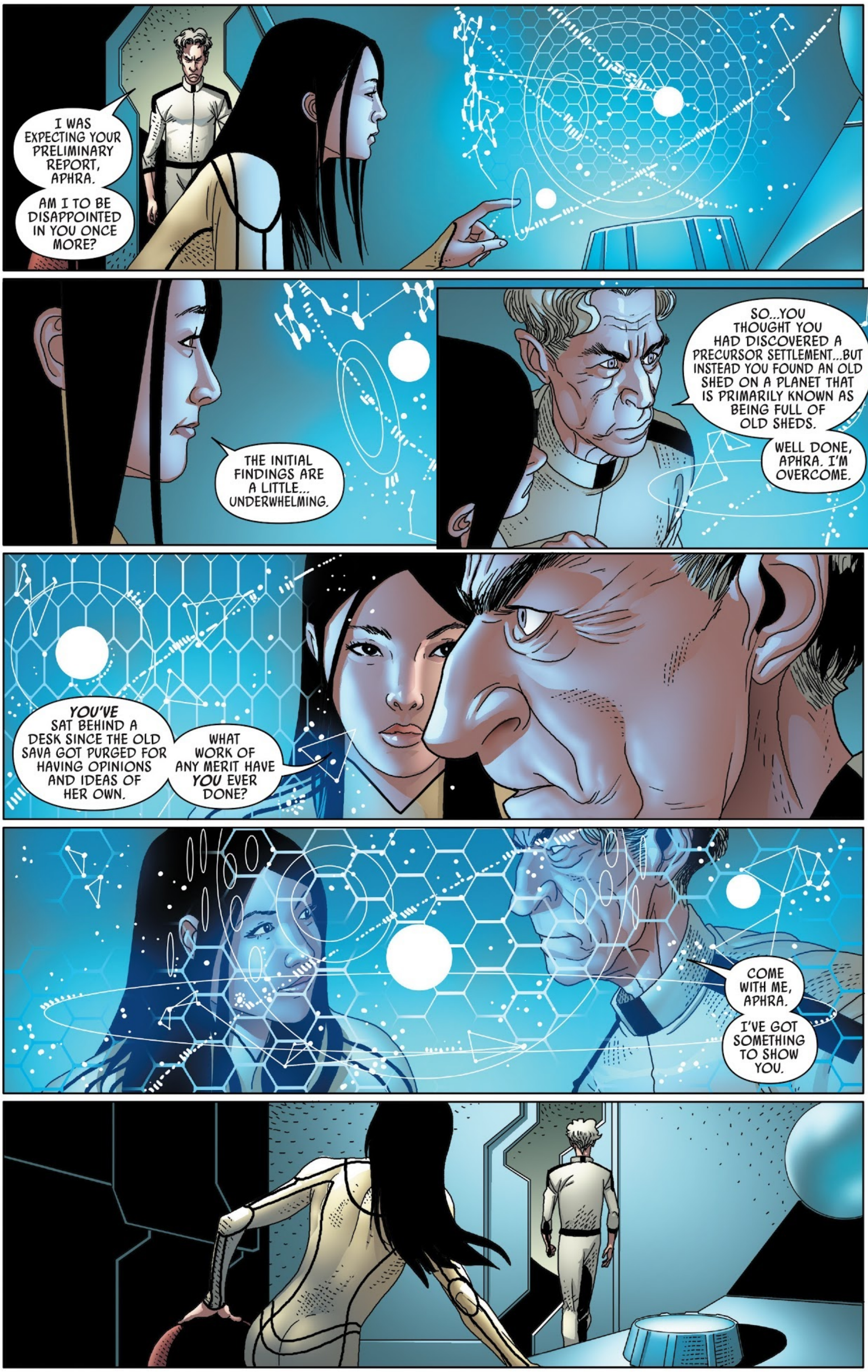
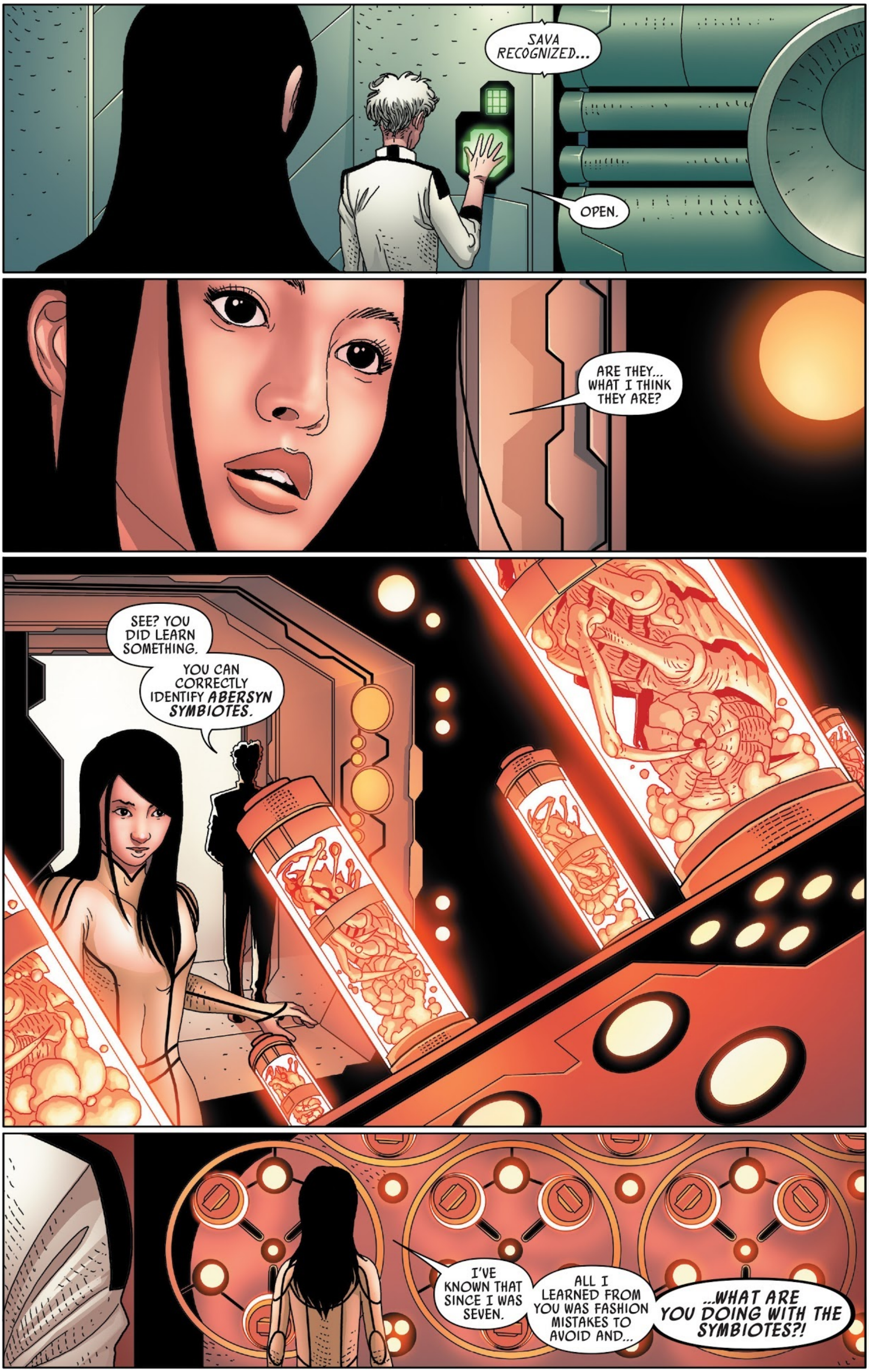
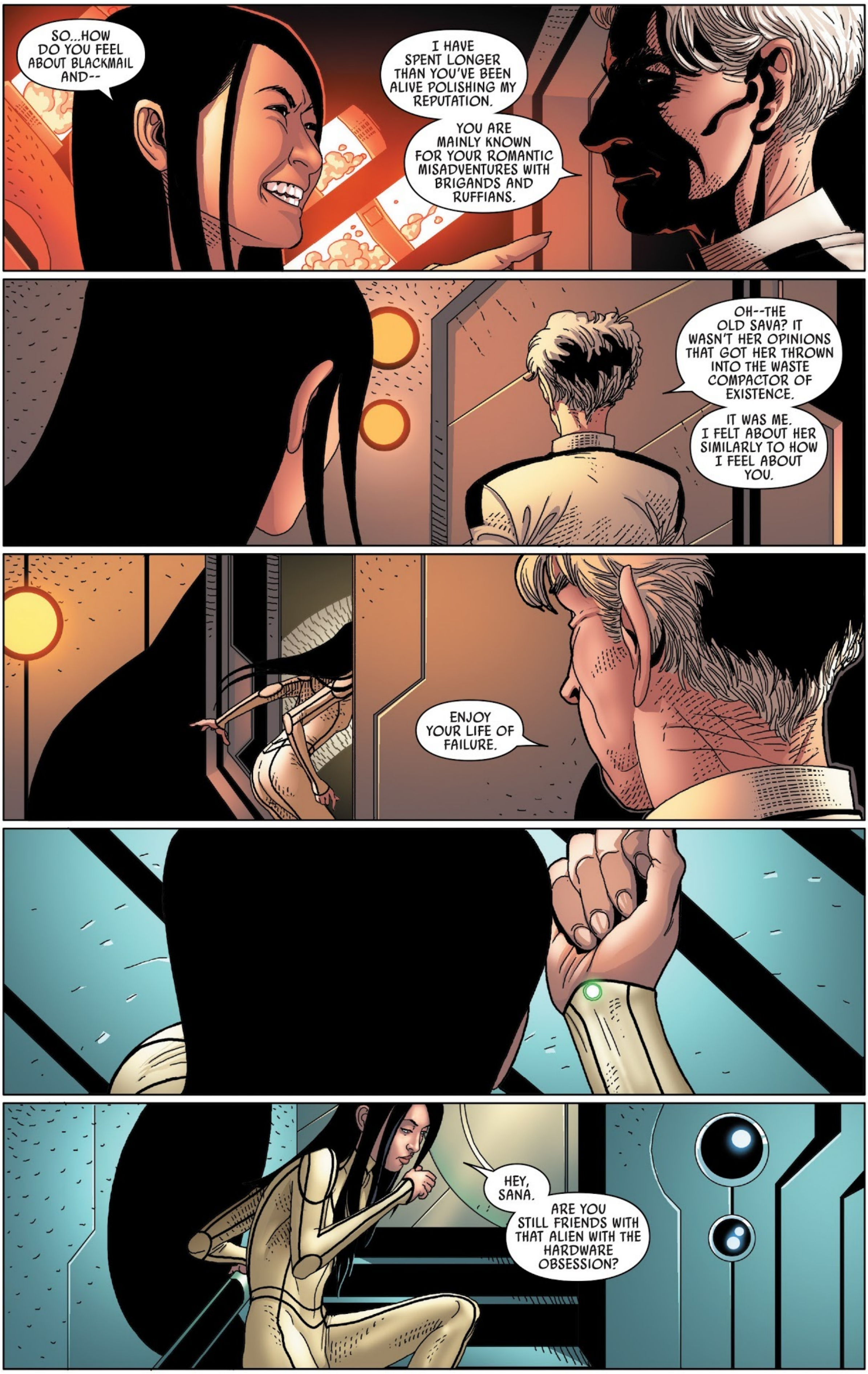
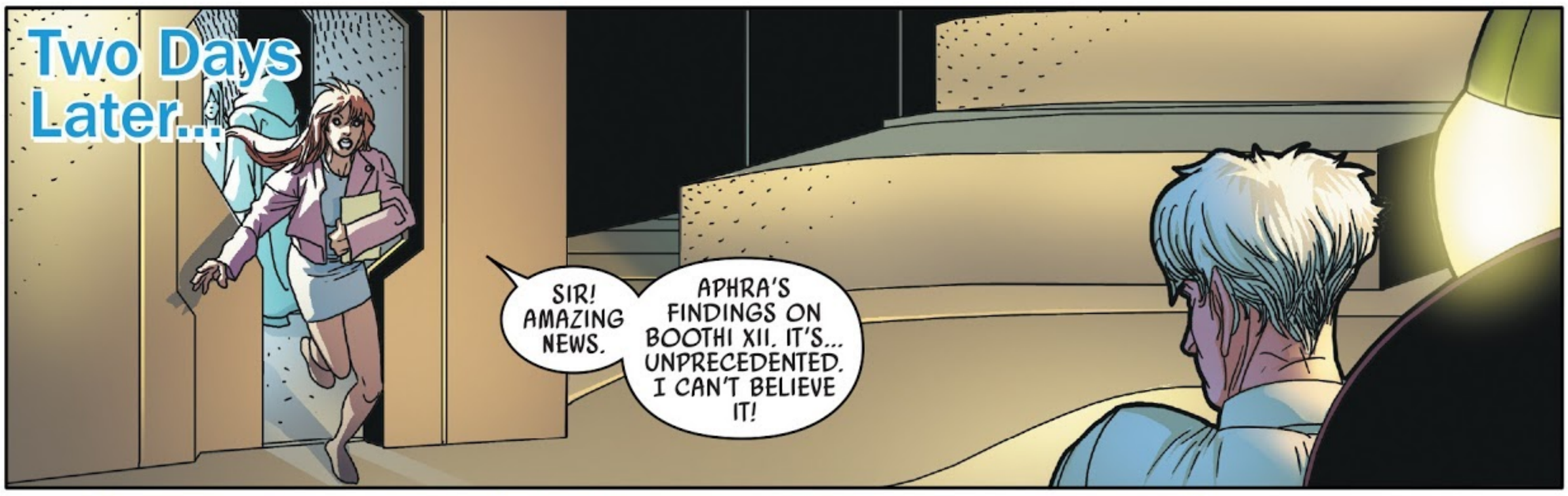
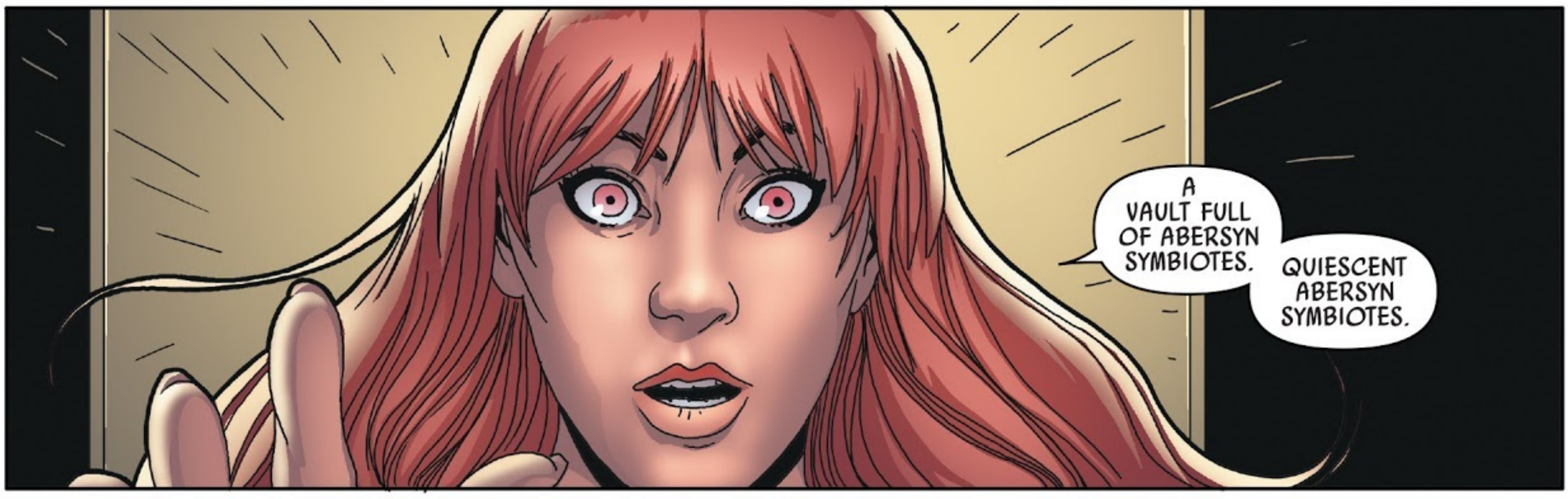

I WAS EXPECTING YOUR PRELIMINARY REPORT, APHRA.
AM I TO BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU ONCE MORE?
THE INITIAL FINDINGS ARE A LITTLE... UNDERWHELMING.
SO...YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD DISCOVERED A PRECURSOR SETTLEMENT...BUT INSTEAD YOU FOUND AN OLD SHED ON A PLANET THAT IS PRIMARILY KNOWN AS BEING FULL OF OLD SHEDS.
WELL DONE, APHRA. I'M OVERCOME.
YOU'VE SAT BEHIND A DESK SINCE THE OLD SAVA GOT PURGED FOR HAVING OPINIONS AND IDEAS OF HER OWN.
WHAT WORK OF ANY MERIT HAVE YOU EVER DONE?
COME WITH ME, APHRA.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

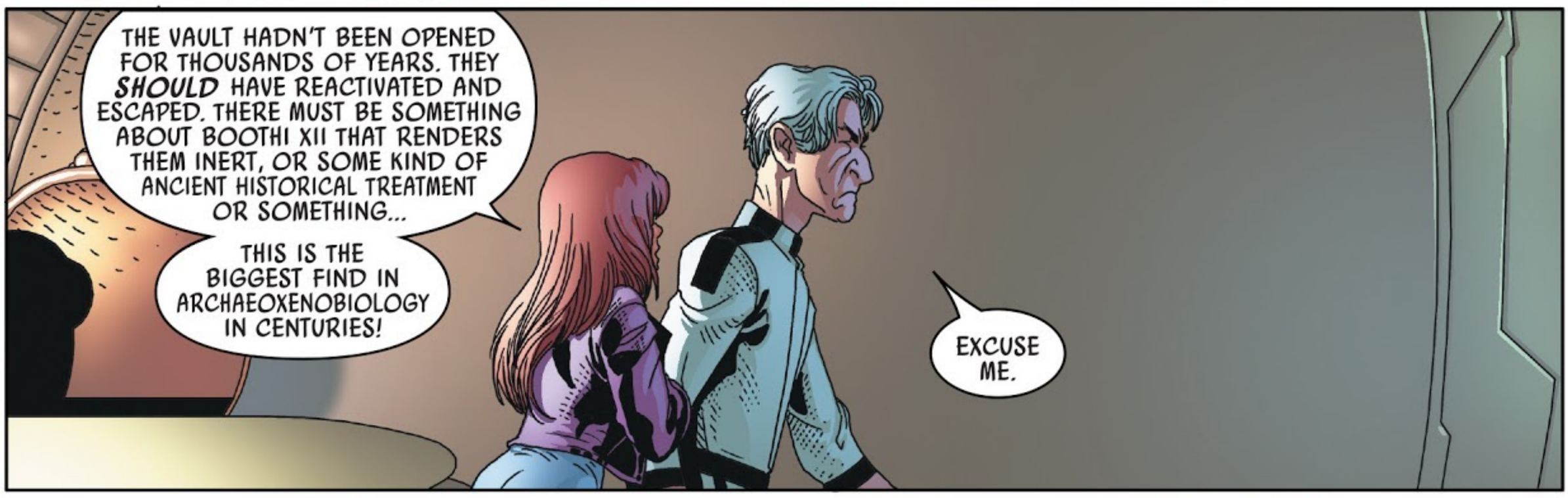

SAVA RECOGNIZED...
OPEN.
ARE THEY... WHAT I THINK THEY ARE?
SEE? YOU DID LEARN SOMETHING.
YOU CAN CORRECTLY IDENTIFY ABERSYN SYMBIOTES.
I'VE KNOWN THAT SINCE I WAS SEVEN.
ALL I LEARNED FROM YOU WAS FASHION MISTAKES TO AVOID AND...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE SYMBIOTES?!

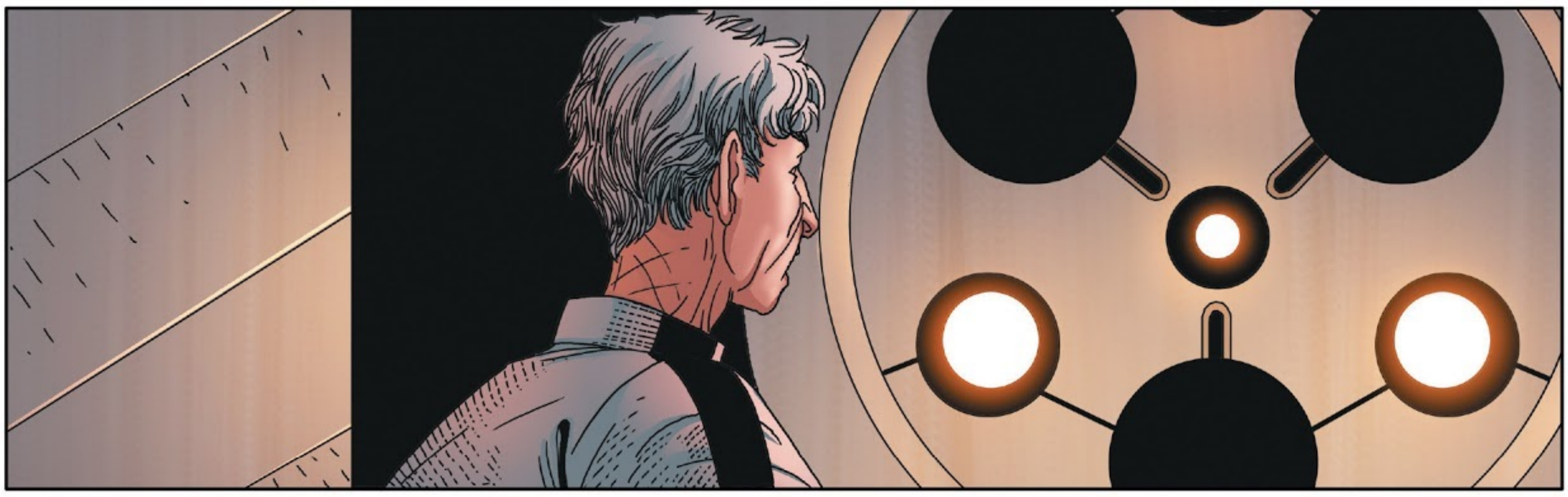
THEY'RE CLASSIFIED BEYOND QUARANTINE. THEY HAVE TO BE FED INTO A PLASMA FURNACE.
THEY'LL INEVITABLY REACTIVATE AND TAKE OVER SOMEONE'S BRAIN STEM...
COWARDICE. REGULAR PLASMA VENT EXPOSURE RENDERS THEM QUIESCENT.
THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MANY HISTORICAL EMPIRES, AND I'M NOT THROWING AWAY THE CHANCE TO STUDY THEM.
WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME THIS?
APHRA, YOU ARE FLASH. ARCHAEOLOGY ISN'T ABOUT FLASH.
THIS IS THE WORK OF DECADES. ARCHAEOLOGY IS ABOUT DETERMINATION.
ALL THOSE YEARS MOCKING ME, YOU NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK WHY I SELECTED YOU FOR MY DOCTORAL SUPERVISION...
BECAUSE I WAS NEVER GOING TO LET SOMEONE LIKE YOU BE A DOCTOR.
NOT BECAUSE OF MY STANDARDS.
NOT BECAUSE YOUR WORK IS SLOPPY.
JUST BECAUSE I HATE YOU.

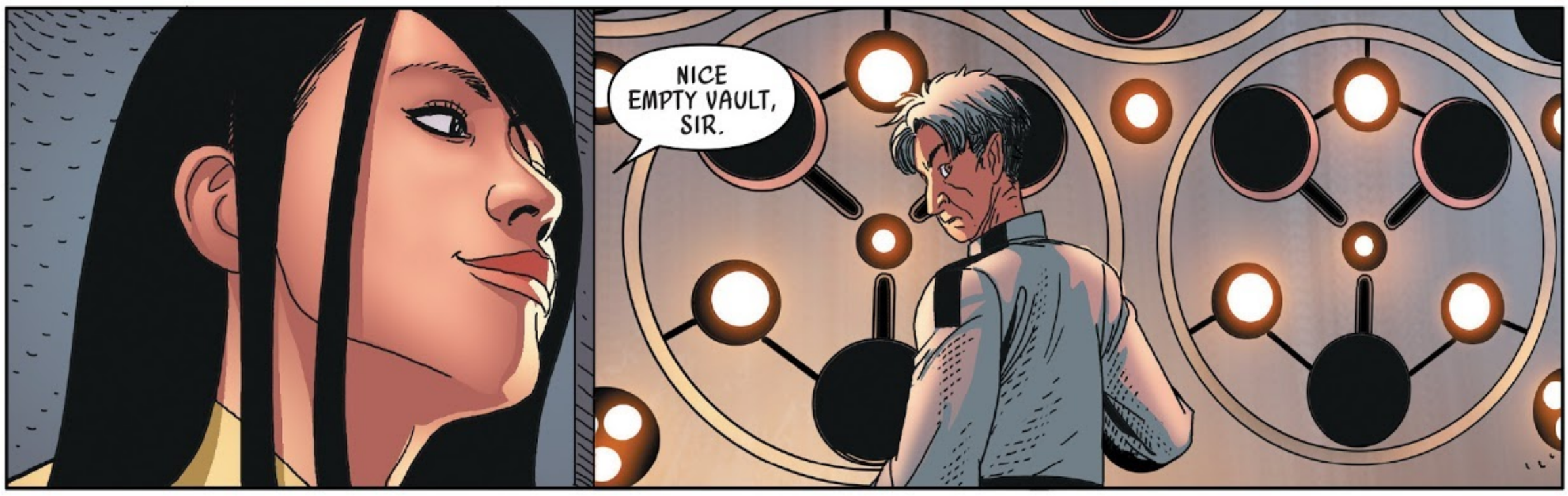

SO...HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BLACKMAIL AND--
I HAVE SPENT LONGER THAN YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE POLISHING MY REPUTATION.
YOU ARE MAINLY KNOWN FOR YOUR ROMANTIC MISADVENTURES WITH BRIGANDS AND RUFFIANS.
OH--THE OLD SAVA? IT WASN'T HER OPINIONS THAT GOT HER THROWN INTO THE WASTE COMPACTOR OF EXISTENCE.
IT WAS ME. I FELT ABOUT HER SIMILARLY TO HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.
ENJOY YOUR LIFE OF FAILURE.
HEY, SANA.
ARE YOU STILL FRIENDS WITH THAT ALIEN WITH THE HARDWARE OBSESSION?


Two Days Later...
SIR! AMAZING NEWS.
APHRA'S FINDINGS ON BOOTHI XII. IT'S... UNPRECEDENTED. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!


A VAULT FULL OF ABERSYN SYMBIOTES.
QUIESCENT ABERSYN SYMBIOTES.


THE VAULT HADN'T BEEN OPENED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS. THEY SHOULD HAVE REACTIVATED AND ESCAPED. THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ABOUT BOOTHI XII THAT RENDERS THEM INERT, OR SOME KIND OF ANCIENT HISTORICAL TREATMENT OR SOMETHING...
THIS IS THE BIGGEST FIND IN ARCHAEOXENOBIOLOGY IN CENTURIES!
EXCUSE ME.




NICE EMPTY VAULT, SIR.

OOH. TRICKSY ALARMS. THEY SHOULD HAVE GONE OFF.
I BET IT'D TAKE SOMEONE PRETTY CLEVER TO GET AROUND THEM...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS. THE SYMBIOTES WILL REACTIVATE AND--
THEY'RE ALREADY DISINTEGRATED. IMPERIAL PROTOCOLS AND ALL.
AND IF ANYTHING GETS OUT...WELL, I SUSPECT A CERTAIN SOMEONE HAS EVIDENCE OF WHERE SHE GOT THOSE SYMBIOTES FROM. IF THAT NEWS WENT PUBLIC, I THINK THAT WOULD BE BAD FOR EVERYONE.
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, SAVA.
I FINALLY LEARNED SOMETHING FROM YOU.
APHRA! I'M SO PROUD!
I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MY WHOLE CAREER TO RESEARCHING THIS.
I'M GOING TO FIND WHATEVER IT IS ON BOOTHI XII THAT NEGATES THE SYMBIOTES. IF IT TAKES DECADES, I'LL BE THERE FOR DECADES.
ER... YEAH.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
The End.

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STAR WARS™
DOCTOR APHRA
MARVEL
002
GILLEN
WALKER
FABELA

APHRA

Book I, Part II

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by the cruelty of Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those used to operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Having successfully faked her own death at Darth Vader's hands, rogue archaeologist Doctor Aphra is back to doing what she does best: locating and liberating rare artifacts. By her side are a pair of homicidal droids and Wookiee bounty hunter Black Krrsantan, looking to collect on Aphra's debts.

A valuable find has Aphra feeling pretty good. With her archaeology accreditation, she'll be able to sell the relic for its true value—but soon finds that her doctorate has been temporarily revoked. Even worse, the man behind Aphra's suspension is her own father....

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Eighteen Years Ago...
NO! NO!
APHRA?!
WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
WRONG QUESTION, DAD.
"WHY ARE YOU HERE? WHERE'S MOM?"
I'M HERE BECAUSE THE NICE IMPERIALS DROPPED ME HOME!
MOM'S DEAD IN A DITCH ON THAT ALIEN WORLD SHE TOOK US TO WHEN SHE LEFT YOU FOR BEING OBSESSED BY OLD DUMB STUFF!
OH--THE PSYCHOLOGIST SAYS I MAY HAVE SOME ISSUES.
FAIR TO WARN YOU.

Now...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE, DAD?!
NO, THAT'S NOT THE QUESTION.
IT'S WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

I'VE DISCOVERED YOU PLACED THE SYMBIOTES ON BOOTHI XII. I'VE LEAKED JUST ENOUGH SO THE BOARD'S EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY...
YOU KNOW THERE'S STILL HUNDREDS OF ACADEMICS WORKING THERE TRYING TO FIND AN EXPLANATION?
AND THEY'RE MAKING EXTREMELY IMPRESSIVE FINDS ABOUT ANCIENT CATTLE-HERDING METHODOLOGY!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO ACTUALLY LEAK ANYTHING.
I'D HAVE HELPED YOU OUT IF YOU JUST MADE THE THREAT.
MASTER APHRA... REALLY?
OKAY, I WOULDN'T HAVE, BUT STILL!
...WHAT IS IT YOU ACTUALLY NEED ME TO DO?
PLEASE, JUST PLEASE DON'T SAY IT'S ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE ORDU ASPECTU.
IT'S THE ORDU ASPECTU.

NOOAAGH!
COME ON, DARLING. YOU HAVE LIVED A DANGEROUS LIFE, BUT THIS IS A REAL CHANCE TO GIVE BEAUTY BACK TO THE UNIVERSE.
THIS IS A CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD...
OKAY. LET'S GET BACK TO THE ARK ANGEL II AND TALK THIS OVER.
WE CAN COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.
OKAY, HERE'S MY UNDERSTANDING...
...YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT AND HOW I CAN MAKE THIS ALL DISAPPEAR...

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YEAH, TURNS OUT EVEN I HAVE MY ETHICAL LIMITS.

OKAY. YOU'VE WASTED ALL YOUR LIFE, MY LIFE, MOST OF MOM'S LIFE ON THIS...

...WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN FIND THE ORDU ASPECTU *NOW?*

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE COORDINATES AND THE MASSASSI. YOU SEE--
BLEEP!
GGRHHHHKKK!
BLEEP! BLEEP! BLEEEEEP!
YES, EXACTLY. MAY I ECHO MY COLLEAGUES...
...WHO ARE THE ORDU ASPECTU?
I'M UNFAMILIAR WITH THE NAME. ORDU SUGGESTS A JEDI INFLUENCE, BUT...
THEY'RE ANCIENT, ANCIENT HISTORY.
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. YOU'RE GOING TO SET HIM--
OH, LISTEN, BRAVE DROID!
IGNORE LITTLE BOOP!
LET ME TELL YOU OF THE DOOM OF THE ORDU ASPECTU...

The Fortress Of Garn.
A Long, Long Time Ago...

JEDI! TURN BACK!

THE ORDU ASPECTU DESPISE VIOLENCE!

RUR!

THE JEDI HAVE BREACHED THE FORTRESS.

WE MUST DEPLOY FORCE.

AYE--BUT NOT *LETHAL* FORCE.

LIFE IS WHAT MATTERS. WE SEEK THE LIFE ETERNAL--WE CANNOT CAST OTHERS INTO THE VOID ALONG THE WAY.

BAW

OOOM

YOUR HERESY IS OVER.
HERESY? JEDI ALWAYS SEEK IMMORTALITY.
WE ARE TRYING TO SAVE US ALL!
THIS IS AN OLD DEBATE...
THE JEDI DO *MANY* THINGS. THEY DO NOT *JUST* SEEK IMMORTALITY...
AMON! NO!

NO. BROTHER...
ANOTHER LOST ETERNITY.
THEY FORCE OUR HAND. WE MUST ACT...
WE MUST TRY...
KLIK
THWUUMMMM

AND SO THE ASPECTU WERE LOST...
FIRSTLY, THEY SOUND MOST TWEE.

SECONDLY, "BOOP"?

PET NAME. YOU TELL ANYONE, AND I'LL DO TO YOU WHAT YOU WANT TO DO TO EVERYONE ELSE, TRIPLE-ZERO.
I'M NOT JOKING.

SOME BELIEVE THEY'VE BEEN TRANSPORTED TO A HIGHER FORM OF EXISTENCE...BUT THERE ARE OTHER THEORIES.
I PERSONALLY BELIEVE IT WORKED. RUR FOUND IMMORTALITY, AND IF WE CAN FIND THE CITADEL OF GARN IT WOULD PRECIPITATE A SPIRITUAL RENAISSANCE, AN AWAKENING OF THE FORCE FOR ALL...

YEAH, THAT'S *YOUR* THEORY.
YOU KNOW WHAT'S JUST AS LIKELY...?

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YOUR HERESY IS OVER!
FREE THE PADAWANS!
CERTAINLY.
KLiK
FREE THEM FROM THE PAIN OF LIVING!
AND FREE US FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH!
YOUR HERESY CURDLES INTO ABOMINATION.
RUR...YOU WERE MY FRIEND. HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?
JEDI ALWAYS SEEK IMMORTALITY.
MY ONLY CRIME IS TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.
SEE--THE HOUR OF THE ORDU ASPECTU'S ASCENSION IS NOW!

RUR! IT'S NOT ENOUGH. THE MATRIX ISN'T STABILIZING. WHAT NOW?
TRY AGAIN. THERE IS A NEXT STEP.
TRUST ME! JUST ACTIVATE IT AGAIN!
AS YOU WISH, BROTHER RUR...
ARRGGHHHH!
DIE, AMON! DIE SO I CAN LIVE! YOU ALL WILL BE SACRIFICED!
I WILL NOT LOSE ETERNITY! I WILL--
THWUUMMMM!

YOU ARE CHASING MIST! STILL! AFTER ALL THESE YEARS!

THINK OF THE POSSIBILITIES! WHAT COULD ONE BRING BACK TO US FROM ETERNITY? WHAT IF--

BLEEP! BLEEP BLEEP! BLEEP!

WHAT IS BEETEE SAYING?

ER... WELL...

The Fortress Of Garn.
A Long, Long Time Ago...

BLEEP!

SUFFICE TO SAY, BEETEE THINKS THERE ARE MANY POSSIBILITIES WORTH CONSIDERATION.

I SYMPATHIZE, BUT PLEASE SHUSH.

DAD. IT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME AGO.

WE KNOW *NOTHING* FOR SURE. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO FIND THEM? IMAGINE IF I'M RIGHT. REALLY?

BLEEP!

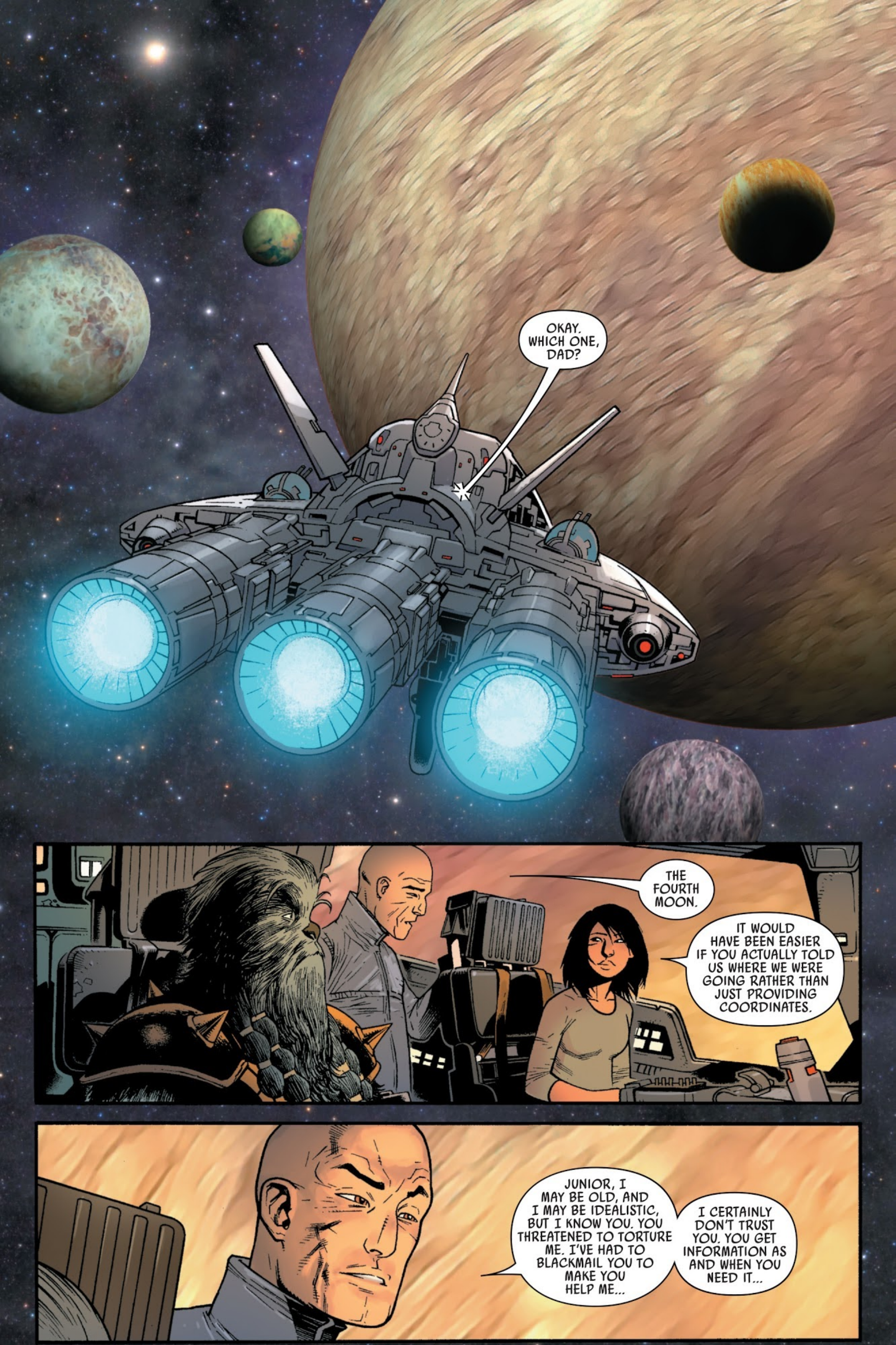
THINK.

IF THEY *ARE* MONSTERS, AND THERE'S NO BEAUTIFUL PHILOSOPHY, AND YOUR OLD MAN IS JUST A NAIVE OLD FOOL WHO'S WASTED HIS LIFE...

...IF THERE *IS* A WEAPON AT THE HEART OF THIS, ISN'T *THAT* MORE YOUR THING, BOOP?

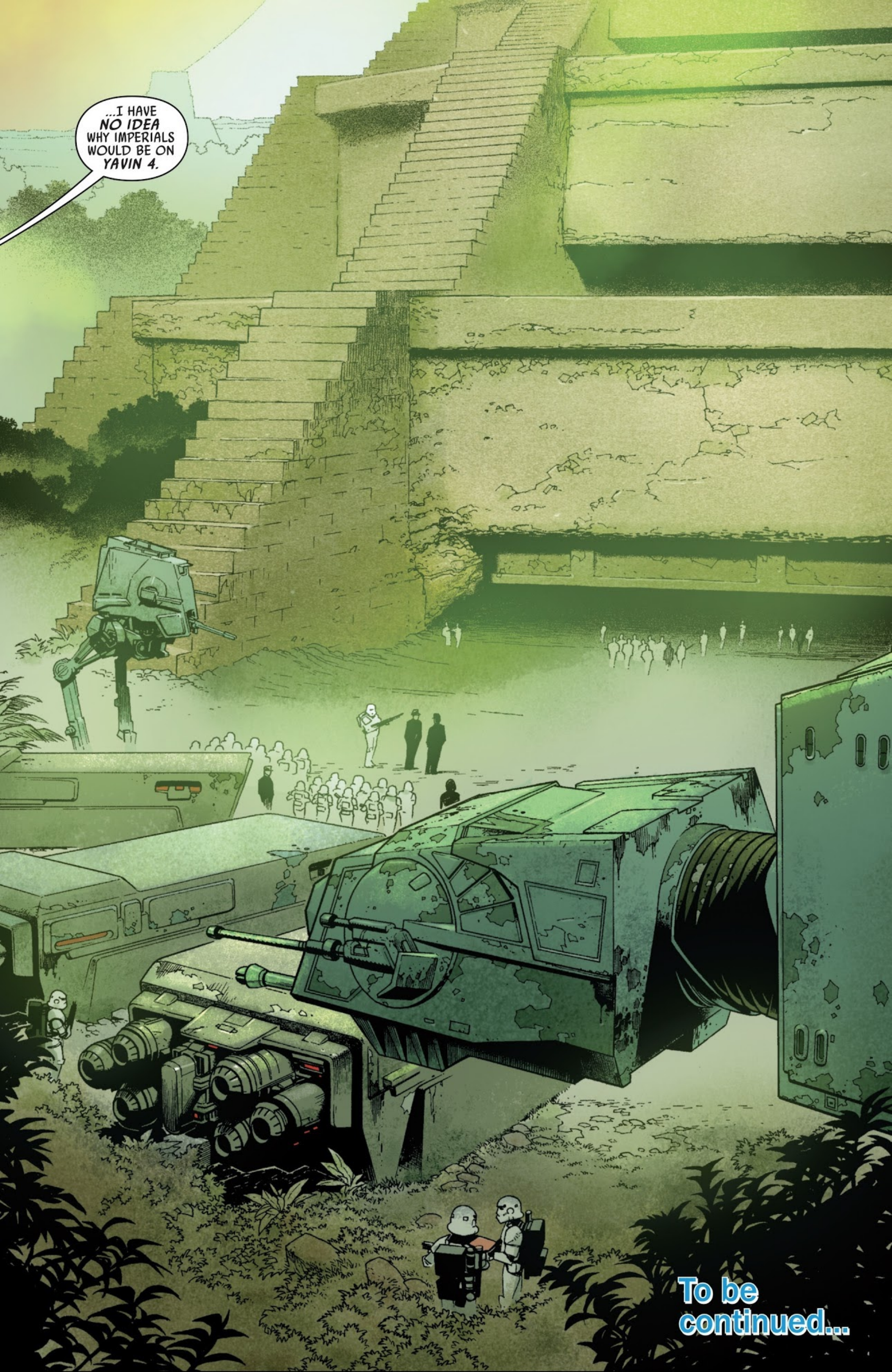
LET'S GO.

BUT NO MORE "BOOP."


OKAY. WHICH ONE, DAD?
THE FOURTH MOON.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER IF YOU ACTUALLY TOLD US WHERE WE WERE GOING RATHER THAN JUST PROVIDING COORDINATES.
JUNIOR, I MAY BE OLD, AND I MAY BE IDEALISTIC, BUT I KNOW YOU. YOU THREATENED TO TORTURE ME. I'VE HAD TO BLACKMAIL YOU TO MAKE YOU HELP ME...
I CERTAINLY DON'T TRUST YOU. YOU GET INFORMATION AS AND WHEN YOU NEED IT...

...THIS FIRST STAGE SHOULD BE THE SIMPLEST. WE JUST NEED TO RECOVER A FEW SIMPLE READINGS FROM THE TEMPLE SYSTEM...
IT'S A LOVELY FOREST MOON. THIS WILL BE EASY.
RRRRRRRRRR
RRWAAAAH!
THUNK
WHAT DID I DO? I...I...
KRRSANTAN'S A LITTLE SUPERSTITIOUS, DAD.
AND YOU JUST TEMPTED FATE.

THE COMPLEX SHOULD BE IN THE NEXT VALLEY...
...DOWN THERE.
OH, HELL.
OH, "ABANDONED," RIGHT? A "NICE WALK IN THE FOREST," RIGHT?
HAVE A LOOK, DAD!
WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN US, DAD?
I...I...DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED.
THIS IS AN ISOLATED MOON...



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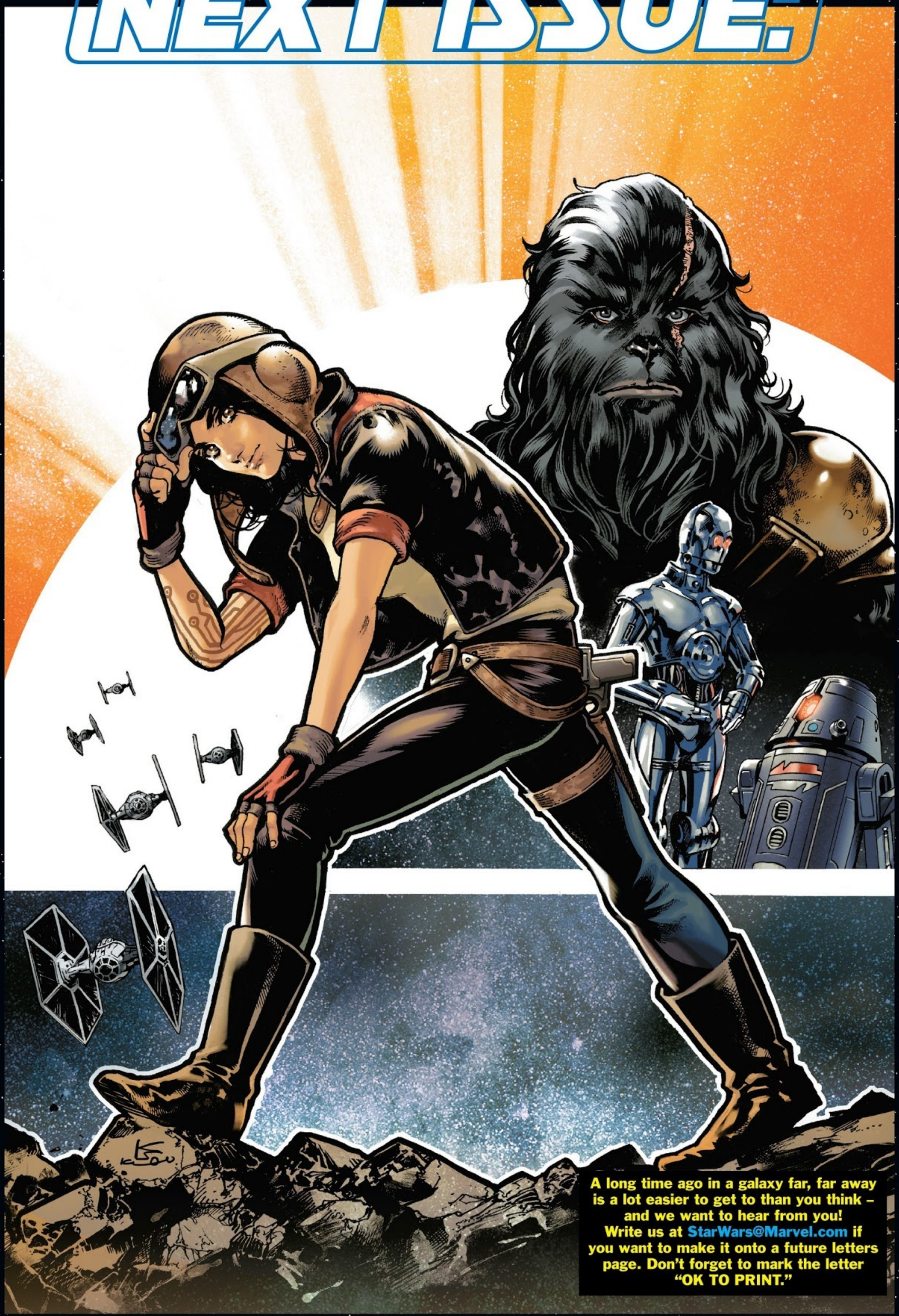
DOCTOR APHRA

NEXT ISSUE:



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

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003

GILLEN
WALKER
FABELA

STAR WARS™ DOCTOR APHRA

APHRA

Book I, Part III

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by the cruelty of Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those used to operating on the fringes, there is much potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Aphra is back to doing what she does best: locating and liberating rare artifacts. By her side are a pair of homicidal droids and Wookiee bounty hunter Black Krrsantan, looking to collect on Aphra's debts.

Aphra's plans are suspended when her doctorate is temporarily revoked – on a tip-off from her estranged father. Now, in order to regain her stature, Aphra is forced to go along on his foolish search for a spiritual sect on an isolated moon. But when they arrive, enlightenment is nowhere to be found – instead, the moon is crawling with Imperial forces....

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Yavin 4.
GGKRKKKKH!
YEAH, KRRSANTAN. A FEW PLATOONS. THAT DOES MAKE GETTING INTO THE MASSASSI TEMPLE A LITTLE TRICKIER.
THEY MUST STILL BE CLEANING UP AFTER THE REBELS LEFT...
SERIOUSLY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I'VE MISSED. THERE WAS A REBEL BASE ON YAVIN 4?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T REALLY FOLLOW CURRENT AFFAIRS.

THE BATTLE OF YAVIN.
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE LOST ME.

DEATH STAR WENT BOOM-BOOM.

THE... DEATH STAR?
I'M SORRY... I THOUGHT THAT WAS JUST A STORY.
YEAH.

TALK OF A PLANET-DESTROYING MACHINE ONE DAY AND THE NEXT IT'S GONE? I JUST DIDN'T GIVE IT MUCH THOUGHT.
IF I CAME TO YOU TALKING ABOUT SOME MANNER OF PLANET-DESTROYING MACHINE, YOU'D CALL ME A FANTASIST...
IT WAS *REAL?*

YEAH. IT REALLY *DESTROYED* ALDERAAN.
AND YOU'RE OBSESSED BY THE JEDI! DID YOU REALLY BUY THAT STORY ABOUT JEDHA?

NO! LOSING THE TEMPLE OF KYBER IN A SENSELESS ACCIDENT WAS TRAGEDY ENOUGH. THAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE DELIBERATELY WAS UNIMAGINABLE.
I...I WAS PULLING THE FINAL ELEMENTS TOGETHER ON THE ORDU ASPCTU. I WAS SO BUSY.
I DIDN'T REALIZE.
MILLIONS WERE TURNED TO DUST.
AND YOU JUST...

DIDN'T

NOTICE?

EXCUSE ME, MASTER APHRA...

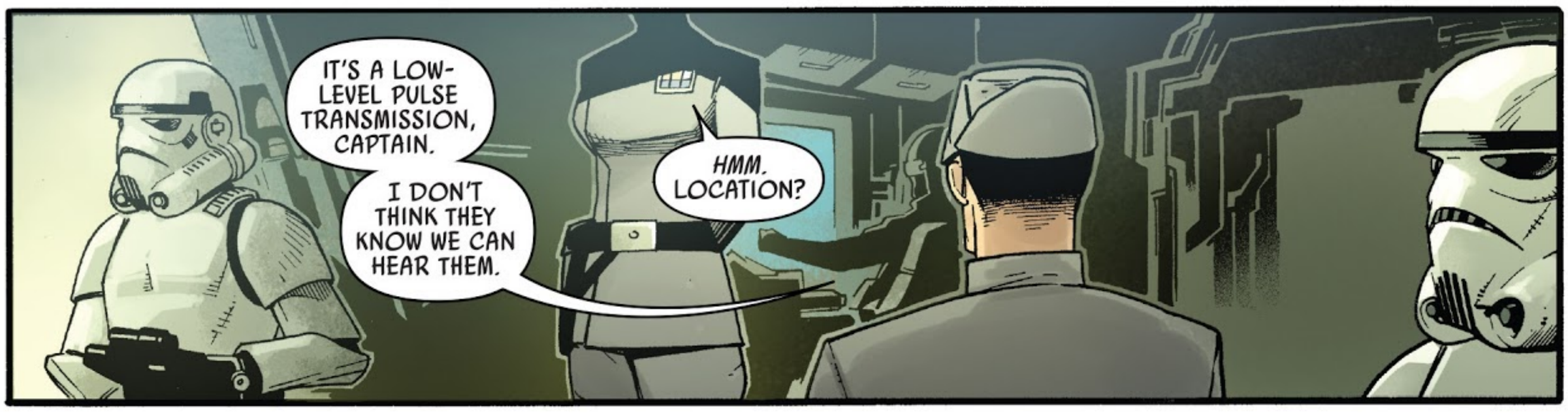
...DON'T YOU SUPPORT THE EMPIRE'S STEEL GLOVE CLASPING AROUND THE THROAT OF THE UNIVERSE AS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT PEOPLE?
I DO BELIEVE THAT'S AN OPINION I'VE HEARD YOU EXPRESS.

TRIPLE-ZERO.
IF I WAS INTERESTED IN MORAL INSTRUCTION FROM AN EMOTIONLESS KILLER, I'D HAVE KEPT WORKING FOR DARTH VADER.

YOU... WORKED FOR DARTH VADER?
HADN'T YOU HEARD? OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU DON'T KEEP UP ON CURRENT AFFAIRS.

OKAY.
THIS IS WHAT WE'LL DO.

CAPTAIN TOLVAN...
...WE'VE PICKED UP SOME CODED SIGNALS. LIKELY A REBEL CODE.


IT'S A LOW-LEVEL PULSE TRANSMISSION, CAPTAIN.
I DON'T THINK THEY KNOW WE CAN HEAR THEM.
HMM. LOCATION?

ONE OF THE OTHER TEMPLE STRUCTURES. FIVE KLICKS OUT.
HMM.

SEND OUT A SPEEDER PATROL ON A STANDARD ROUTE, AND THEN CHANGE COURSE TO APPROACH THE SIGNAL.
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN SPOT ANYTHING WITHOUT ALERTING THEM. PUT EVERYONE ELSE ON STANDBY.

PATROL, REPORT.
APPROACHING THE TEMPLE, CAPTAIN.
NOTHING TO--
WA--
BA-DOOM

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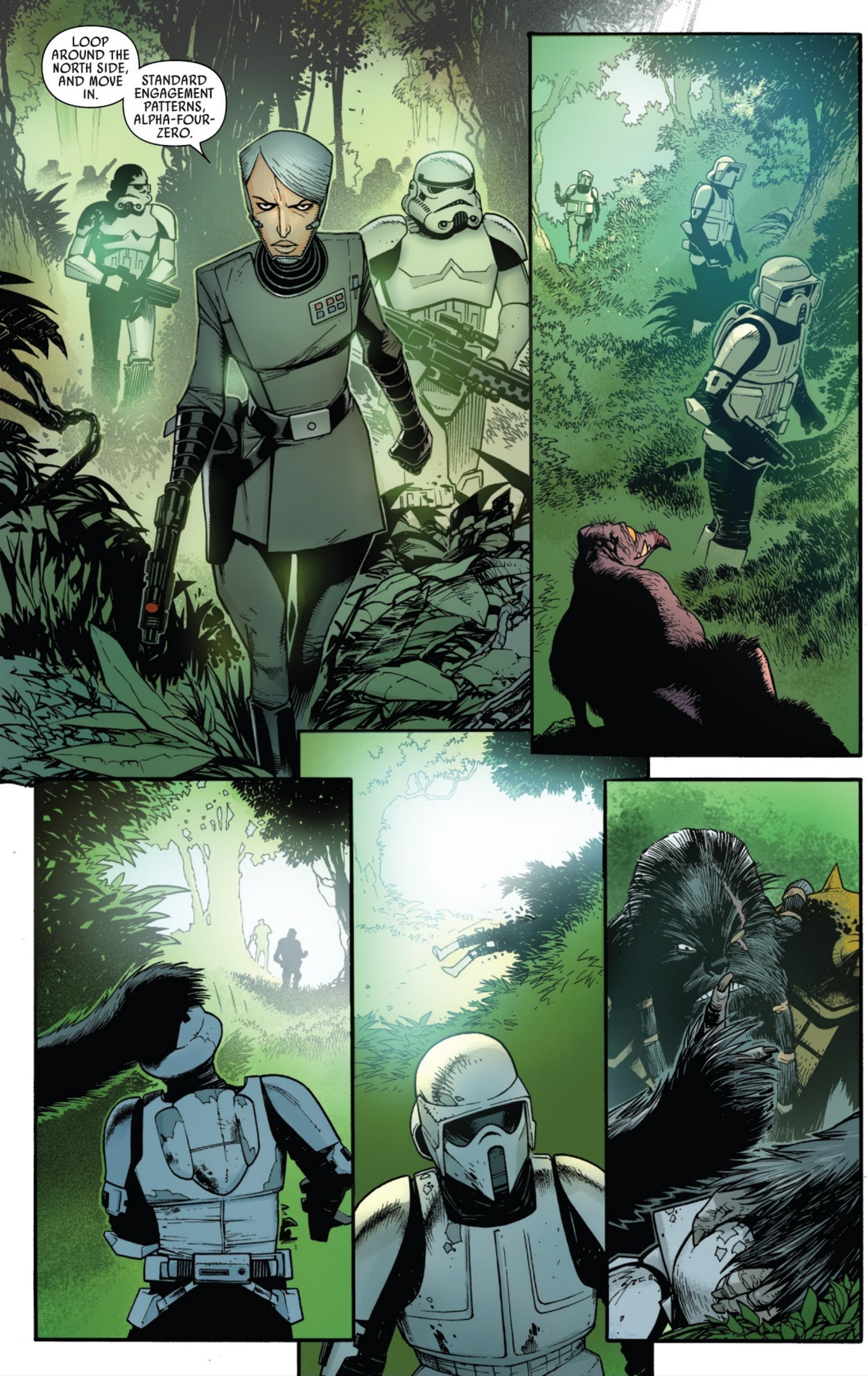
FULL COMBAT ENGAGEMENT.
NOW!
WELL, THERE'S OUR DISTRACTION.
THE WOOKIEE VERSUS WHATEVER THE EMPIRE CAN THROW AT HIM?
THAT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR.
NO, IT DOESN'T...



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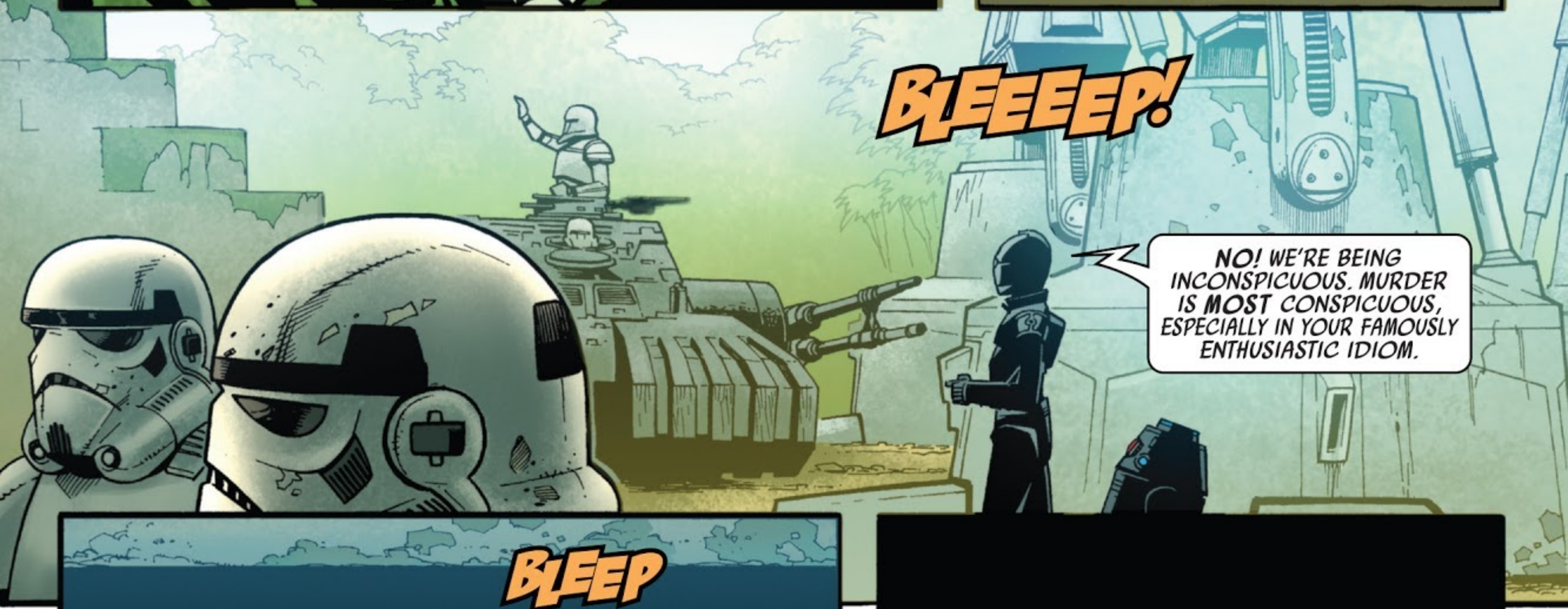
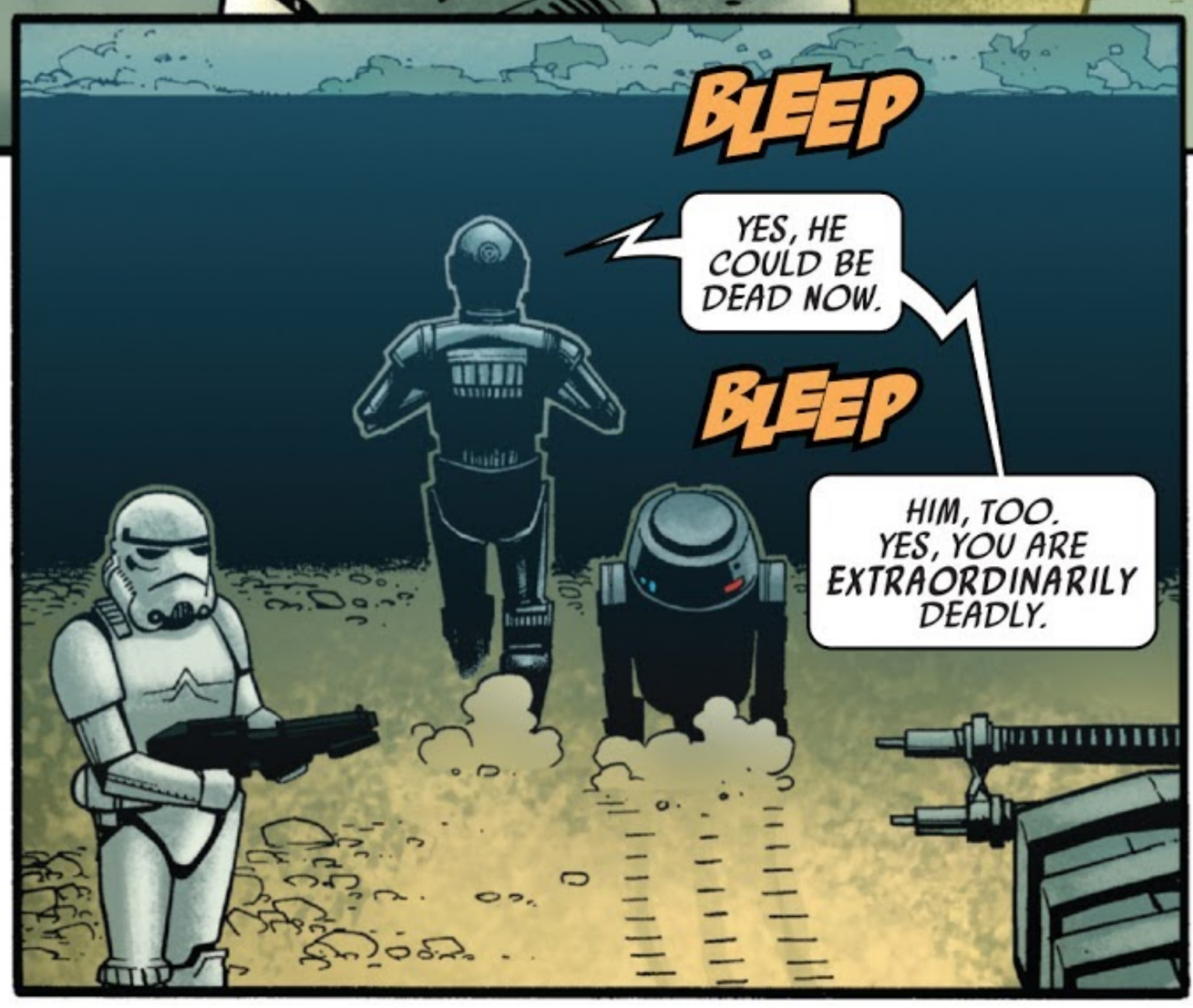
...BUT THE EMPIRE IS ALWAYS RECRUITING. I'M SURE THEY'LL RECOVER.
HEY, DROIDS. YOU'RE UP!

BLEEP!
NO, BEETEE.


BLEEEEP!
NO! WE'RE BEING INCONSPICUOUS. MURDER IS MOST CONSPICUOUS, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR FAMOUSLY ENTHUSIASTIC IDIOM.


BLEEP
YES, HE COULD BE DEAD NOW.
BLEEP
HIM, TOO. YES, YOU ARE EXTRAORDINARILY DEADLY.

YOU ARE A VERY NEEDY PSYCHOPATH, BEETEE.

NOW, IF THE OLDER APHRA MODEL IS CORRECT, THIS SHOULD BE THE WAY TO THE LAUNCH HANGARS AND...
PERFECT.
OH, HELLO, FELLOW DROIDS.
DON'T MIND US, JUST PASSING THROUGH.
I LOATHE MAKING SMALL TALK WITH CAREER DROIDS.
GET THE VENTILATION HATCHES OPEN, BEETEE.
BLEEP!
CLIK
KER-CLIK

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BOOOM
BOOOM
WE'RE LOSING TROOPS, CAPTAIN. THEY'RE PICKING US OFF AT WILL. PINNED DOWN.
THERE MUST BE DOZENS OF THEM.
VERY WELL.
SEND IN A WALKER.
NO RESISTANCE YET...
WAIT...
SIGHTING. IN PURSUIT.

MISSED.

CLOSING IN...

BOW

BRRW

BDOOM

KRAI

SCROOOAAHH

CONTACT. WE HAVE--

ARGRGH! AGGGH!

HHZHzZZZ--

BUT WHAT IF THERE ARE GUARDS? WHAT DO WE--

TRUST ME. DON'T BE TOO DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR DAUGHTER, BUT I'VE DONE THIS KIND OF THING BEFORE.

OH HELLO, IT-O.

BIG FAN OF YOUR WORK.

WHICH WAY NOW?

SHOULD BE ALONG HERE. IT'S SITUATED ABOVE THE MAIN HALL, BELOW THE SUMMIT.

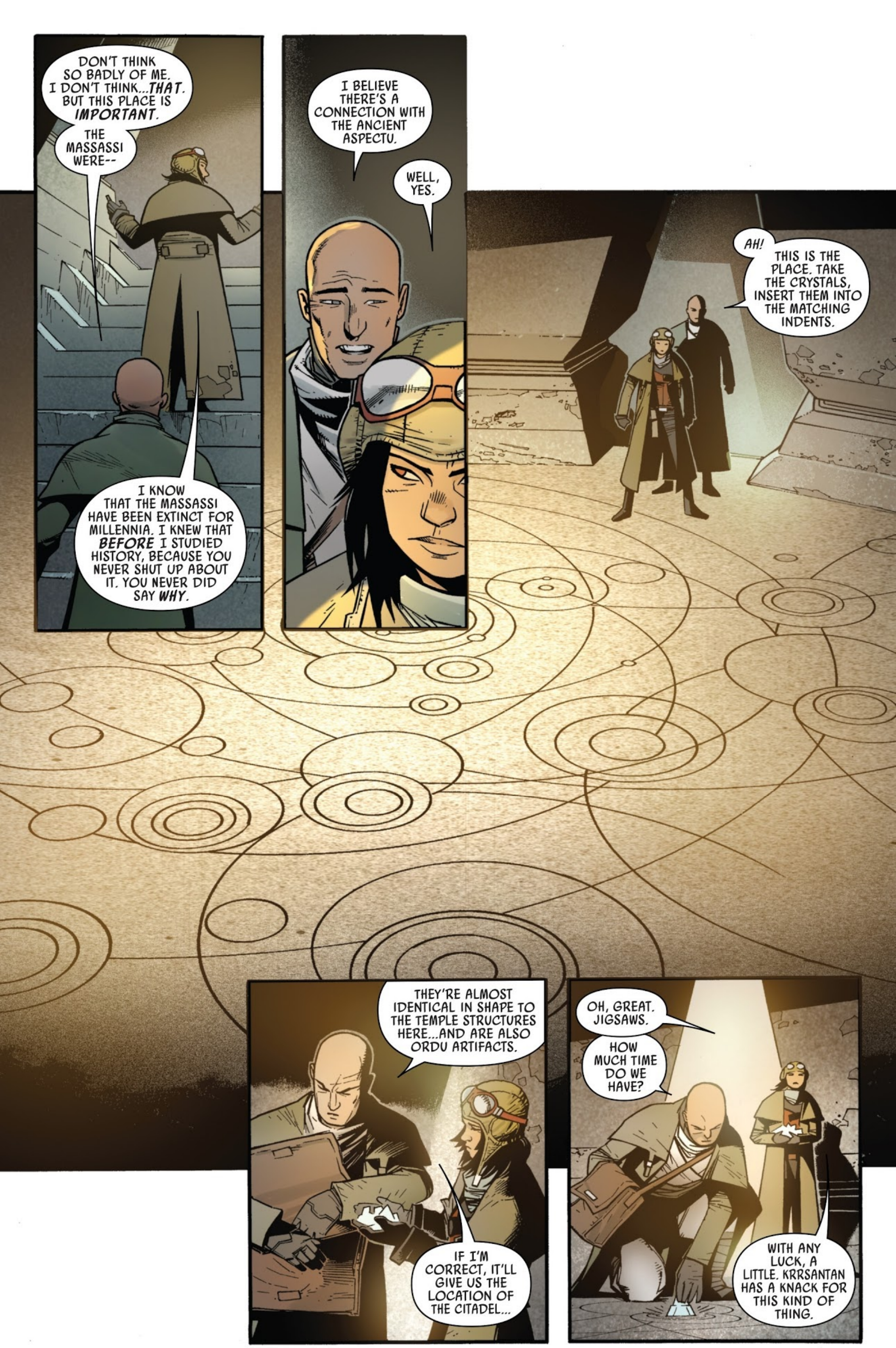
FASCINATING HISTORY--THE STRUCTURE, OF COURSE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE REBELS SET UP BASE HERE. IT'S SUCH AN IMPORTANT HISTORICAL SITE.

IMAGINE IF THE DEATH STAR HAD DESTROYED THE MOON.

IT'D BE SUCH AN INCREDIBLE LOSS.

YES, BECAUSE IT'D BE MUCH BETTER FOR PEOPLE TO EXPLODE *WITHOUT* TAKING DOWN POSSIBLE RESEARCH MATERIAL WITH THEM.



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OKAY. I'VE FINISHED.
AND...

COMPLETE.
KLiK

HMM. IF YOU DON'T MIND ME OFFERING AN OPINION, THIS MASSASSI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVENTURE HAS PROVED TO BE SOMEWHAT ANTICLIMACTIC.

THERE... THERE...MUST BE SOMETHING I MISSED.
YES, THERE OBVIOUSLY WAS!

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YOU HAVE FIVE MORE SECONDS OF SMUG TIME, AND THEN WE HAVE TO RUN FOR OUR LIVES.

DOCTOR APHRA

NEXT ISSUE:

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

MARVEL
004
GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA
STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA

APHRA

Book I, Part IV

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by Imperial cruelty, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Aphra is back to retrieving rare artifacts while teamed with a pair of homicidal droids and Wookiee bounty hunter Black Krrsantan. Aphra's plans are suspended, however, when her estranged father gets her doctorate revoked as a method of blackmailing her to join his search for the mysterious Ordu Aspectu.

Now, Aphra and her father are on an isolated moon swarming with stormtroopers when they stumble upon an ancient temple. But when they unlock its secrets they only have mere seconds to escape Imperial notice....

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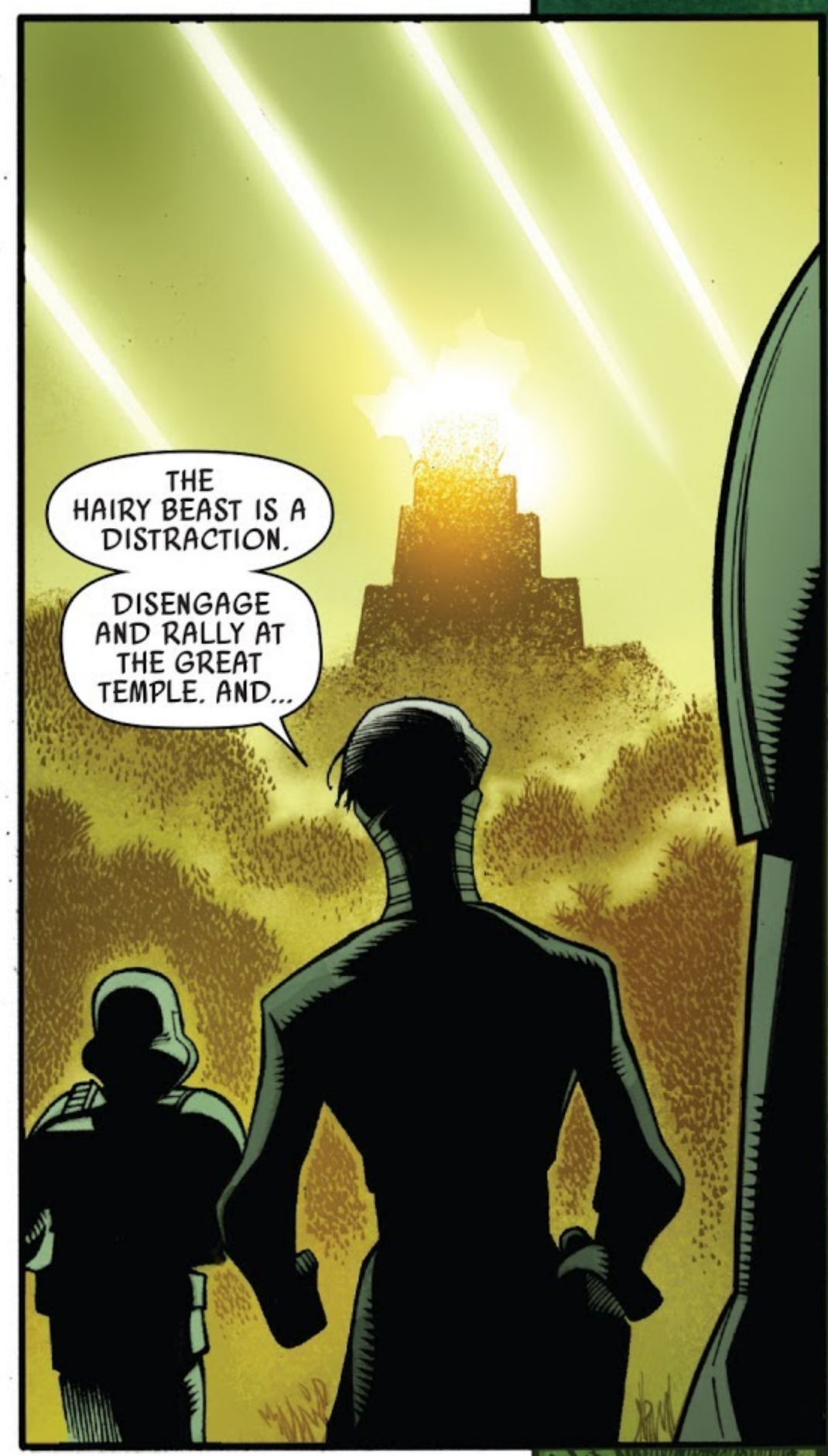
YAVIN 4.
HMPH.


THE HAIRY BEAST IS A DISTRACTION.
DISENGAGE AND RALLY AT THE GREAT TEMPLE. AND...

AND WHAT?

CAPTAIN?

THERE.

GET THEM.

I'M NOT STARING. I WAS STARING EARLIER AT THE UNCOVERED WONDER. NOW I'M GATHERING READINGS.
...I WAS EXPECTING IT TO BE SMALLER...
I PRESUMED THE SCALE OF THE DEVICE IN MY RESEARCH WAS A TRANSLATION ERROR.
SEEMINGLY NOT.
ENOUGH STARING, DAD.
WE HAVE TO GO.
AND... COMPLETE.
BEETEE, TELL KRRSANTAN WE'RE LEAVING. GET THE ARK ANGEL READY.
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE?
DEPENDS HOW COMPETENT THE OFFICERS ARE.
WITH LUCK WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER MINUTE BEFORE WE RUN INTO ANY--
BLEEEP!

OOF.
KRUMTCH
THE OTHER WAY!
THE CRYSTALS! I NEED--
--NOT TO BE SHOT BY A BLASTER.
BDOWM
BEETEE, SLOW THEM DOWN!
BLEEEP!
BDOWCH

CAPTAIN TOLVAN! THEY'RE RUNNING!
THEY'VE LEFT SOME CRYSTALS, I--
CHUMF
CHUMF
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BiP
BAWOOM
BLEEEP!
YES, I AGREE.
BEING DEAD SHOULD SLOW THEM DOWN.

THIS ISN'T THE WAY WE CAME IN!
THAT'S THE WAY THEY'LL BE COMING...
WE'LL TRY THE MAIN HALL...
OH...

NEAT.

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OKAY, FIND A WAY DOWN FROM HERE AND THEN WE'LL...
OH.
IN CASE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT MY JOB WAS ACTUALLY LIKE...
...WELL, NOW YOU KNOW.

LOWER YOUR WEAPONS. THIS AREA IS UNDER STRICT IMPERIAL CONTROL.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DON'T WORRY.

I CAN HANDLE THIS.

UH...

WE'RE... LOST?

OPEN FIRE!

WHAT?!

OH.

COVER, BEETEE!

GO! GO!

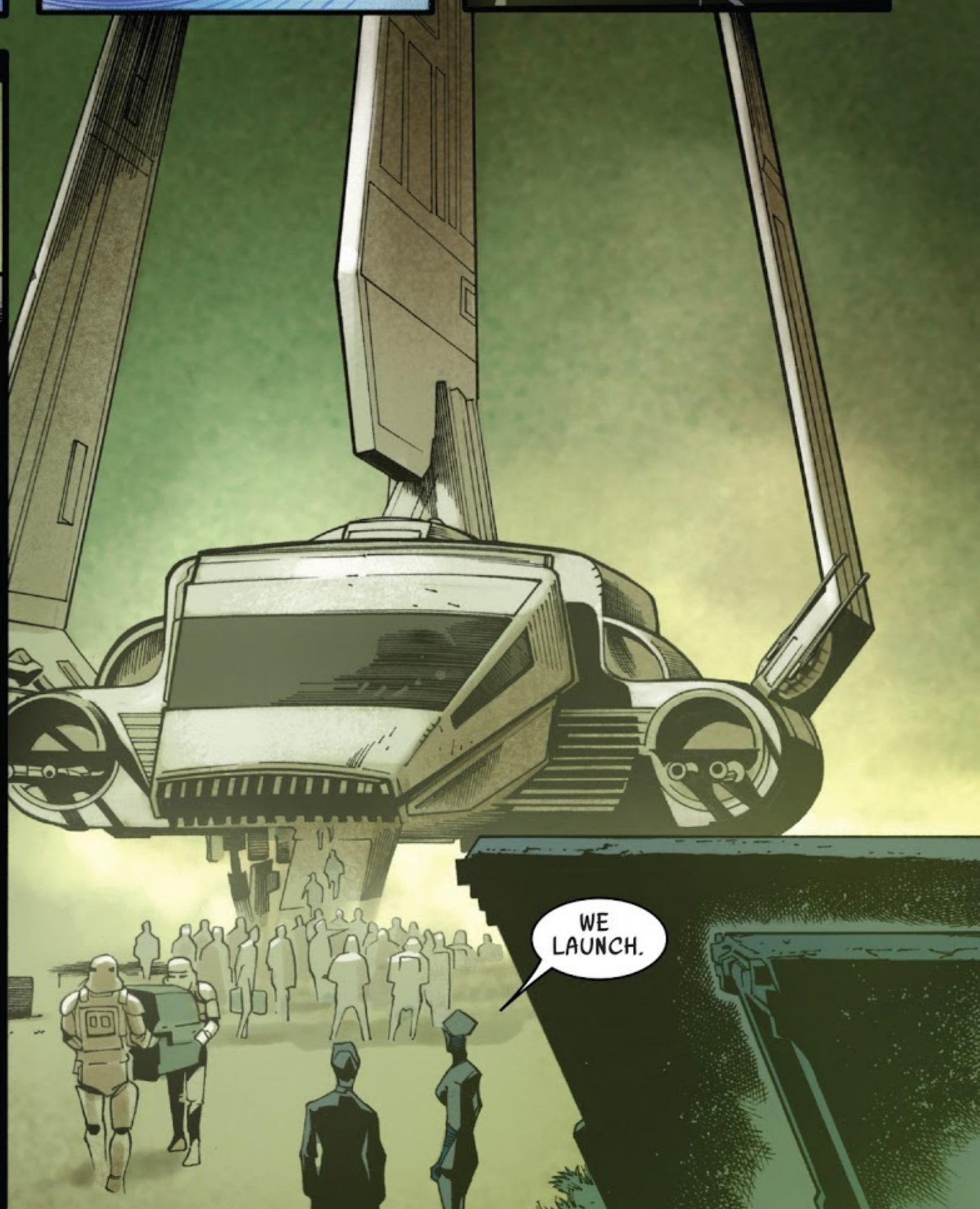
GET US OUT OF...
...HERE.
YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES...

...I HATE MY JOB.
I ONLY SAY THIS BECAUSE I LOVE YOU...
...BUT IF YOU HAD STAYED AWAY FROM THE FIELDWORK, YOU'D BE ON THE TENURE TRACK BY NOW.

GGGRRRRHHHH!
YEAH, YEAH. JUST ADD IT TO MY TAB.
GET US OUT OF HERE, KRRSANTAN!
HMPH.

WE'RE CLEAR.
WHERE NEXT, DAD?
I...THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO TALK. OR SHOUT AT ME.
OUR HISTORY. MY MISTAKES. YOU WITH DARTH VADER. I...
I DON'T WANT TO TALK NOW.
I WANT TO JUMP THROUGH WHATEVER THE NEXT HOOP IS TO FIND YOUR ORDU.
NO HOOPS.
THESE SHOULD BE THE COORDINATES FOR THE CITADEL OF RUR.
OR... NOT.
LET'S GO.

WELL, CAPTAIN TOLVAN.
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO REPORT?
A SMALL RAID, ADMIRAL OZZEL.
POSSIBLY REBELS.
IT'S A GOOD SIGN. REBEL ACTIVITIES TO DISRUPT OUR OPERATIONS HERE MAY IMPLY THERE'S SOMETHING THEY LEFT BEHIND WHEN CLEANING THEIR BASE.
SO, ALL THIS EFFORT PICKING OVER A DESERTED TEMPLE MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A COMPLETE WASTE OF MY TIME.
I SUSPECT YOUR ACTUALLY FINDING SOMETHING WOULD BE A SORE DISAPPOINTMENT TO THE DEAR DEPARTED GENERAL TAGGE...
WE ALL KNOW THAT AFTER THE MESS YOU MADE WITH SECURITY ON EADU THIS WAS MEANT TO BE A PUNISHMENT DUTY.
ANY DETAILS ON THE REBELS?
PRELIMINARY DATA.
NOTHING WORTH SHARING.



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AND DROP OUT OF HYPERSPACE IN THREE, TWO, AND...
OH.
IS IT EVERYTHING YOU WERE HOPING FOR?
I...I DON'T KNOW. I ONLY REALIZE NOW, WHAT I REALLY WANTED.
JUST ONE THING.

FOR IT TO BE REAL.
WELL, DAD...

...THIS IS ABOUT AS REAL AS IT GETS.

DOCTOR APHRA
NEXT ISSUE:

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away is a lot easier to get to than you think – and we want to hear from you! Write us at StarWars@Marvel.com if you want to make it onto a future letters page. Don't forget to mark the letter "OK TO PRINT."

MARVEL
005
GILLEN
WALKER
DEERING
FABELA
STAR WARS
DOCTOR APHRA

APHRA

Book I, Part V

It is a period of opportunity. In a galaxy oppressed by the cruelty of Imperial forces, there is little hope for the future. But for those operating on the fringes, there is potential for profit.

Rogue archaeologist Aphra is back to retrieving rare artifacts with a pair of homicidal droids and Wookiee bounty hunter Black Krrsantan. Aphra's plans are suspended, however, when her estranged father gets her to join his search for the mysterious Ordu Aspectu.

After very narrowly escaping Imperial forces on Yavin 4, Aphra and her father reach the long-lost citadel of the Ordu Aspectu. Upon arriving, they immediately know that they have found the ancient Jedi order. What they don't know is that they've been followed....

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The Citadel Of Rur.
WHAT IS IT, CAPTAIN?
ABSOLUTION, WITH ANY LUCK.
I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN?
DON'T BE. I SHOULD BE. A POETICAL FLOURISH.
AN UNFORGIVABLE EXTRAVAGANCE IN AN IMPERIAL OFFICER.
ADVANCE. SECURE THE SPACE STATION. FIRE AT WILL.

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THERE'S ALWAYS COLLECTORS LOOKING FOR SECONDHAND LIGHTSABERS.
YOU'RE... ROBBING CORPSES!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I ACTUALLY DO, DAD? ARCHAEOLOGY IS JUST GRAVE ROBBING WITH FANCY PAPERWORK.
AND I'VE GOT DEBTS TO PAY.
GGGRRRRRRHHHH!
YES, I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE MONEY.
WHAT DOES HE MEAN?
I PROMISED TO FIND THE PEOPLE WHO TRAINED HIM TO BE A GLADIATOR.
HE DOESN'T OBJECT TO THE LIFESTYLE. HE OBJECTS TO ANYONE CONTROLLING HIM. EVER.
AH. WELL, NOW I CAN SEE WHY YOU TWO GET ALONG.
HEY-- BARBED PASSIVE AGGRESSION IS MY MOVE.
LET'S GO.

OKAY... BIG SEALED BLAST DOOR. AND THE TEXT... WAIT, DON'T TELL ME.
ETERNAL RUR?
IMMORTAL RUR.
LET'S FIND THE GENERATOR.
TA-DA!
BLEEP!
YES, BEETEE. I'M SURE OUR HUMAN MASTERS HAVE NOTICED THE CRYSTAL FRAGMENTS ON THE FLOOR.
THEY WOULDN'T BE OUR MASTERS IF THEY WERE NOT OUR BETTERS IN EVERY SINGLE WAY.

OKAY--HOW DO WE GET THIS BAD BOY RUNNING?

KLiK
KLiK
KLiK

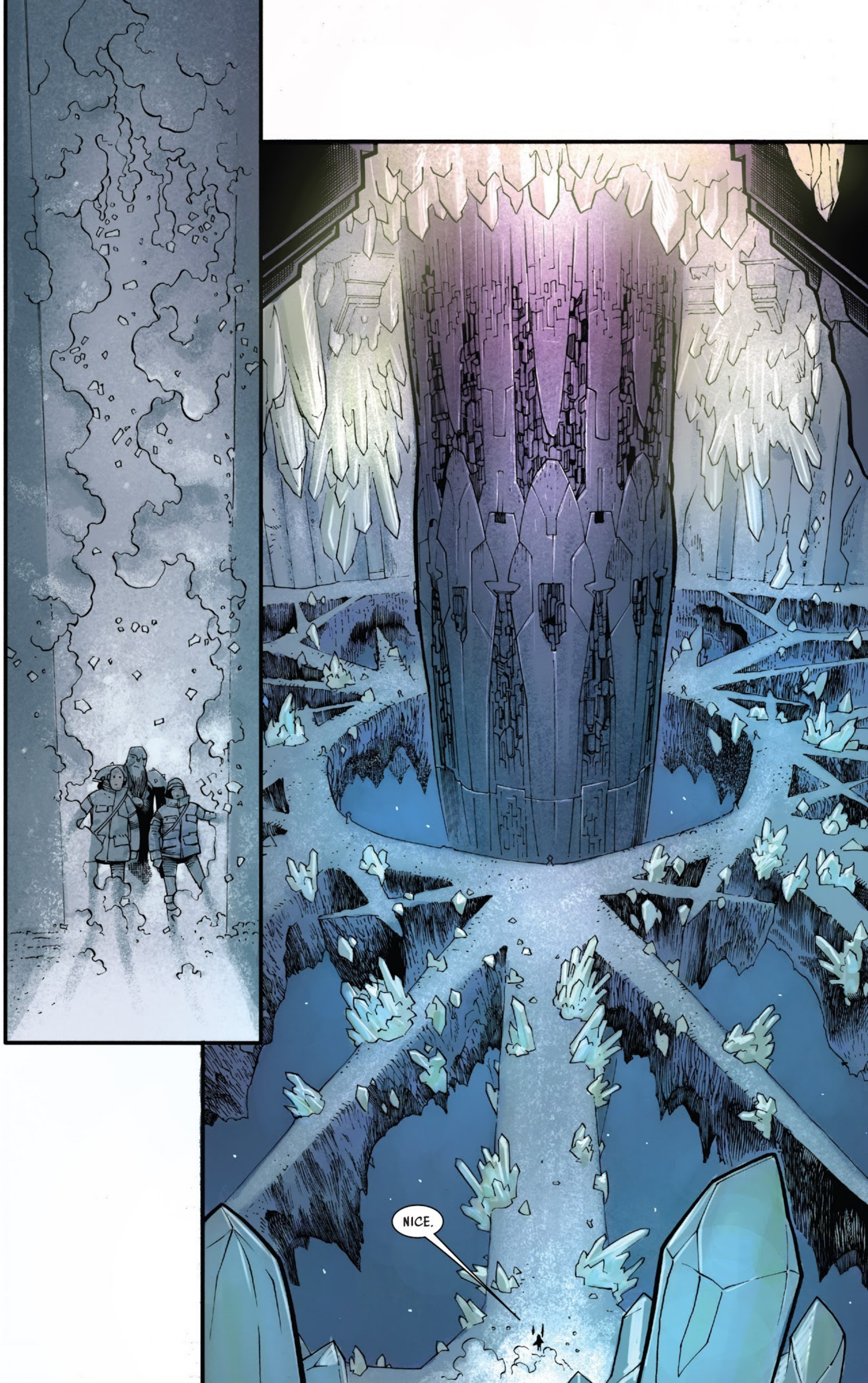
OKAY. THESE ARE GOING TO BE USEFUL. HOW MANY DO WE HAVE?
KLAK

IF I'D COLLECTED THEM ON YAVIN 4, I'D HAVE A FINE SELECTION.
ALAS, NOW, WE HAVE... THIS ONE.

OKAY-- I MAY BE ABLE TO MIMIC ITS FUNCTIONALITY.
TRIP! BEETEE! THERE'S A CRYSTAL MODULATOR ON THE SHIP. GO GET IT.
CERTAINLY, MASTER.
APHRA!

IMMORTAL RUR.

PERHAPS YOU CAN ACCESS THE LOGS FROM HERE?
NO. CORE IS STILL DOWN. POWER, BUT NOTHING MORE...
LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET THIS OPEN...
BiP BiP BiP


NICE.

WAIT!
BLEEP!
YES, BEETEE. THERE WERE RATHER A LOT OF THEM. WE SHOULD WARN MASTER APHRA.
I'M SURE IT CAN WAIT UNTIL WE GET BACK TO THE SHIP.

OPENING DIRECTLY INTO SPACE...
THIS CAN'T BE SAFE.

THE ORDU TRIED TO MAKE THEIR FOLLOWERS UNDERSTAND THEIR SMALLNESS COMPARED TO THE MAJESTY OF SPACE. AND...
LOOK! THESE ARE CIVILIANS. LAYPEOPLE LIVED AMONG THE ORDU! THIS PROVES THE THEORY OF LUPIN TUTAX! THIS IS *AMAZING* INFORMATION.
AND THEY'VE ALL DIED IN PAIN. THIS IS *ALSO* AMAZING INFORMATION.

DIRECT VENTS INTO OPEN SPACE...AND WE CAN *STILL* BREATHE. LIFE SUPPORT MUST BE ON ITS OWN SYSTEM.
THAT CERTAINLY ALIGNS WITH VARIOUS ORDU THEORIES. IT'LL BE PART OF THE CORE COMPUTER...

OKAY--WHERE IS THE COMPUTER CORE? IF WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, THAT'S WHERE WE NEED TO GO.
IN THE CENTRAL SPIRE...
GRRRR.

BWAMCH

ADVANCE!

HELL.

MASTER APHRA!

SOME IMPERIALS ARE HEADING YOUR WAY. I FOUND A COUPLE ABOARD THE SHIP. THEY'RE GONE NOW.

SHALL WE PROTECT YOUR VESSEL? AND POSSIBLY MOP UP?

GEE, THANKS FOR THE WARNING, GUYS. PREP THE SHIP.

KRRSANTAN-- SLOW THEM DOWN AND THEN PULL BACK.

WE'LL TRY AND FIND A SAFE PLACE FOR YOU TO PICK US UP.

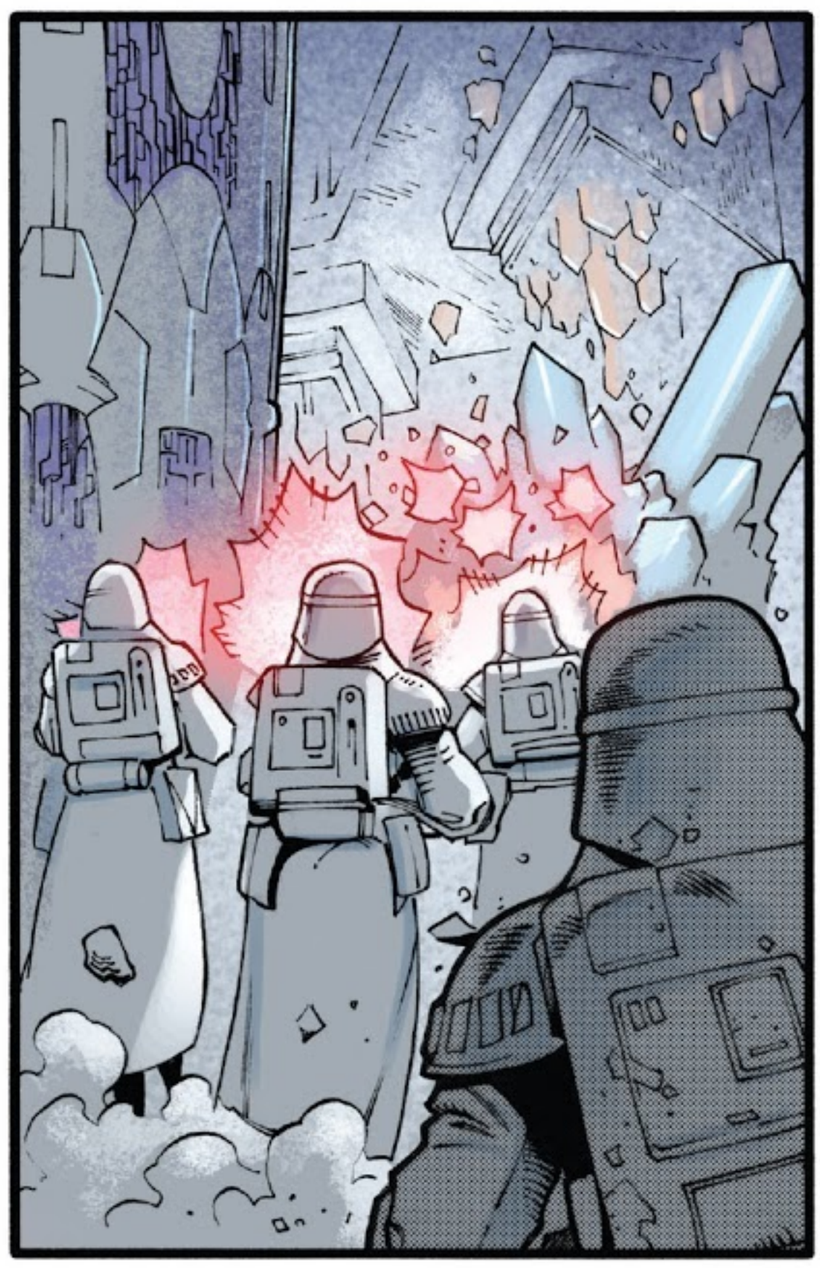
HGGGRGRGGRGRH!

AND REACH THE CORE, OF COURSE.

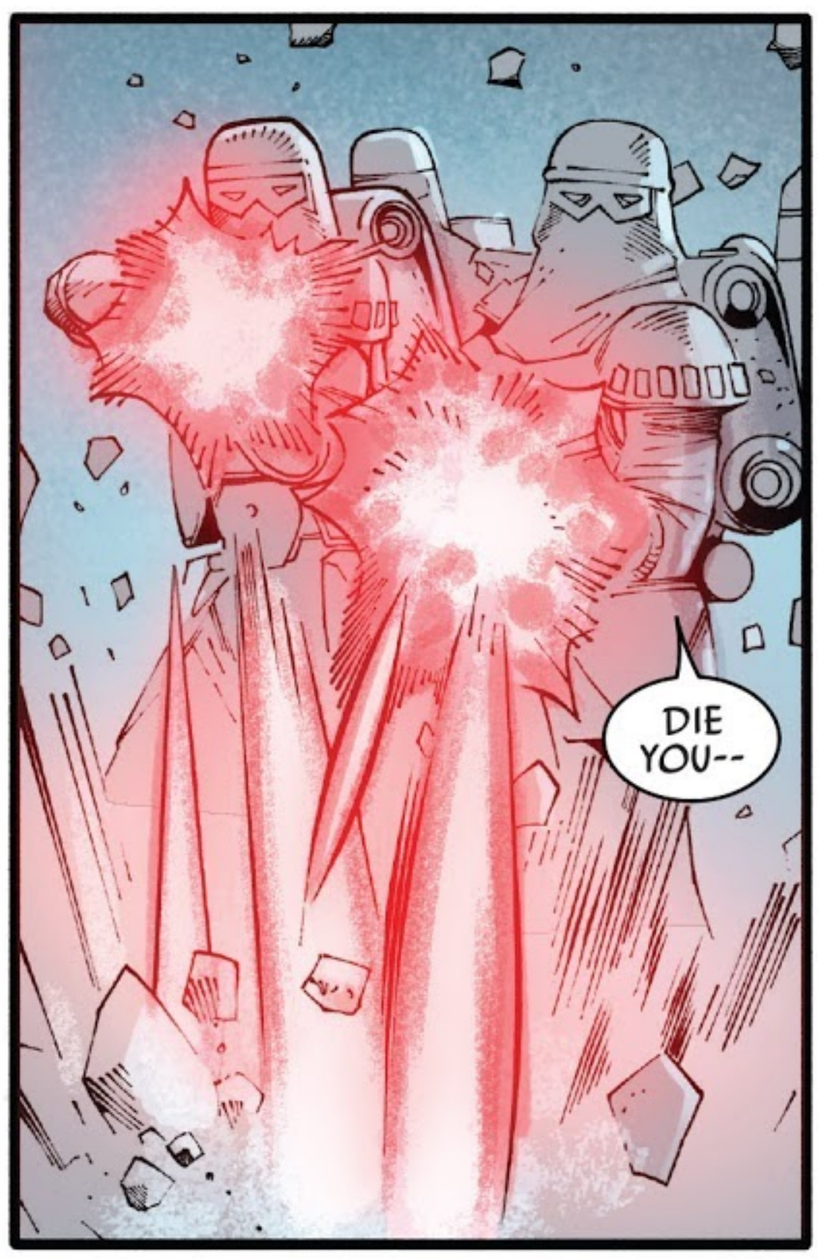
WE'LL SEE.

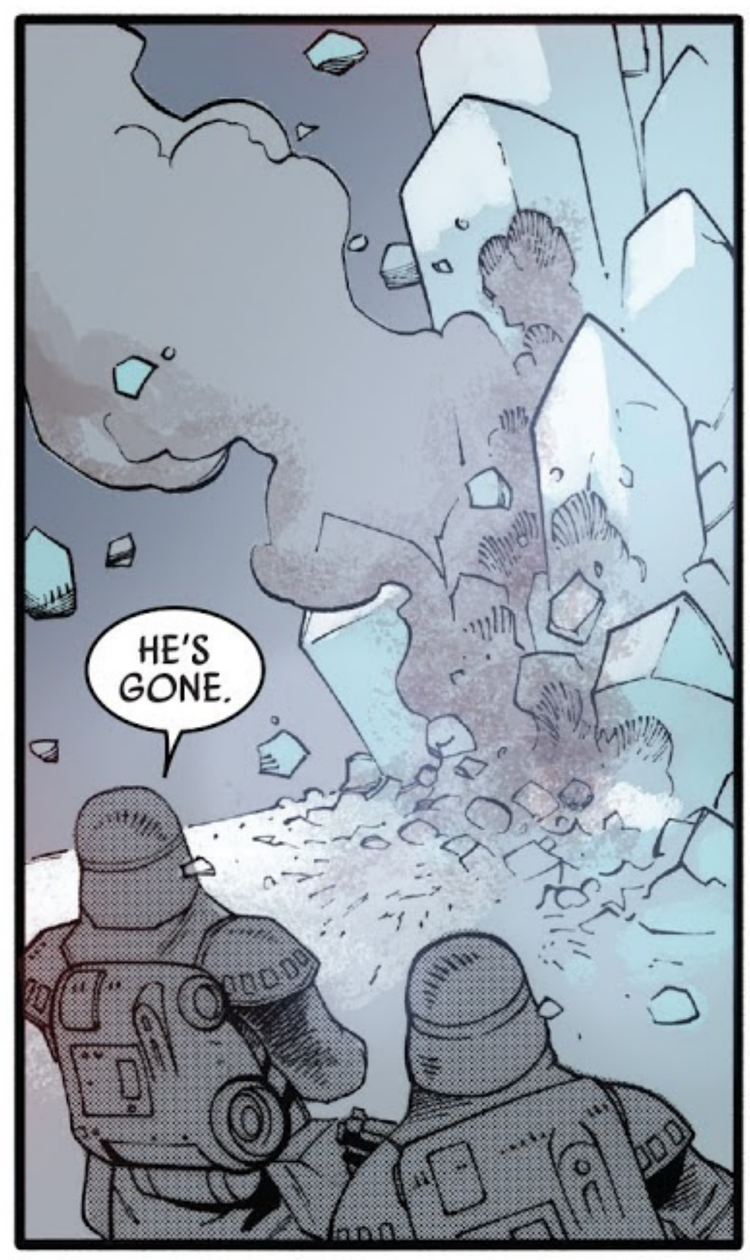
IT'LL INCLUDE EVERYTHING--THEIR GREAT WORK, THEIR RECORDS, EVERYTHING...
AND THE ARC ANGEL COULD PICK US UP HERE. OKAY...HOW DO WE GET ACROSS--
AH.
KLIK
OOH.

SQUAD BETA, ON FLANKING. SQUAD ALPHA, COVERING FIRE. LET'S SHOW THE BEAST WE'RE NOT IN THE JUNGLE ANYMORE...

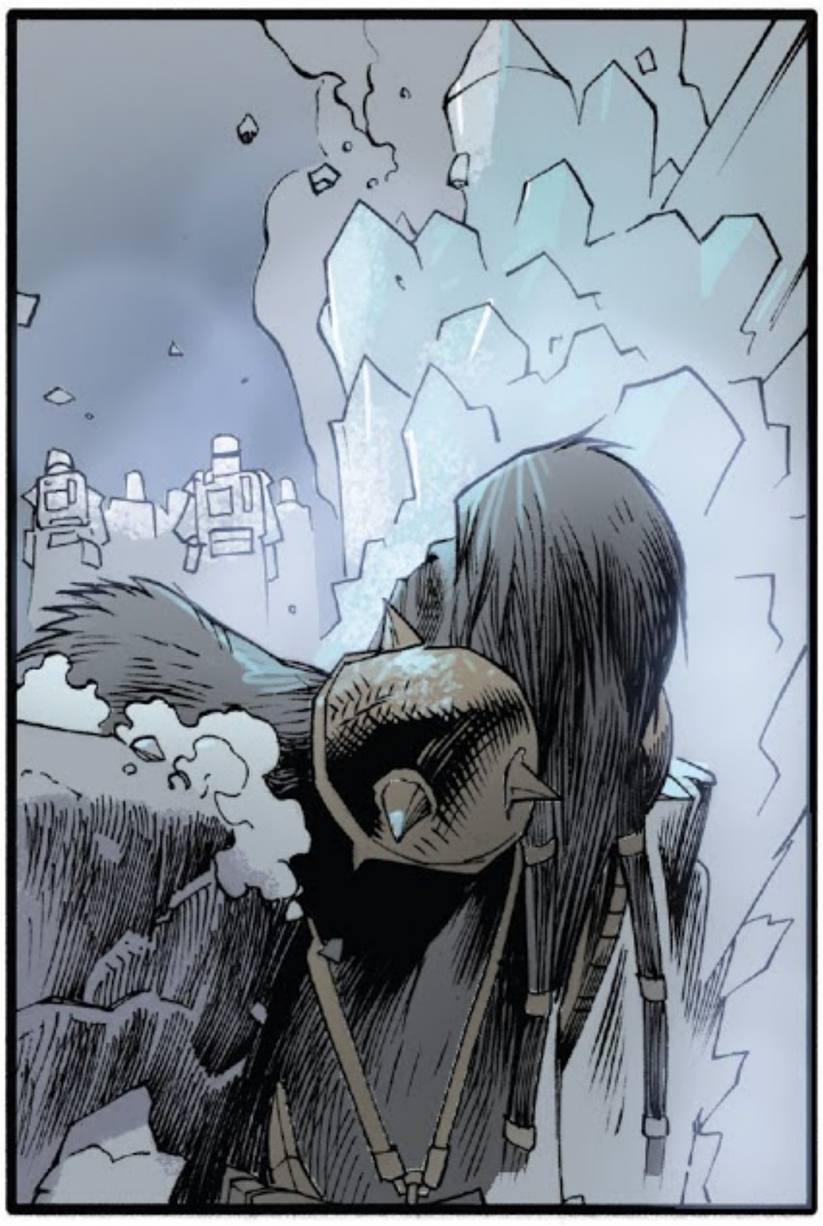


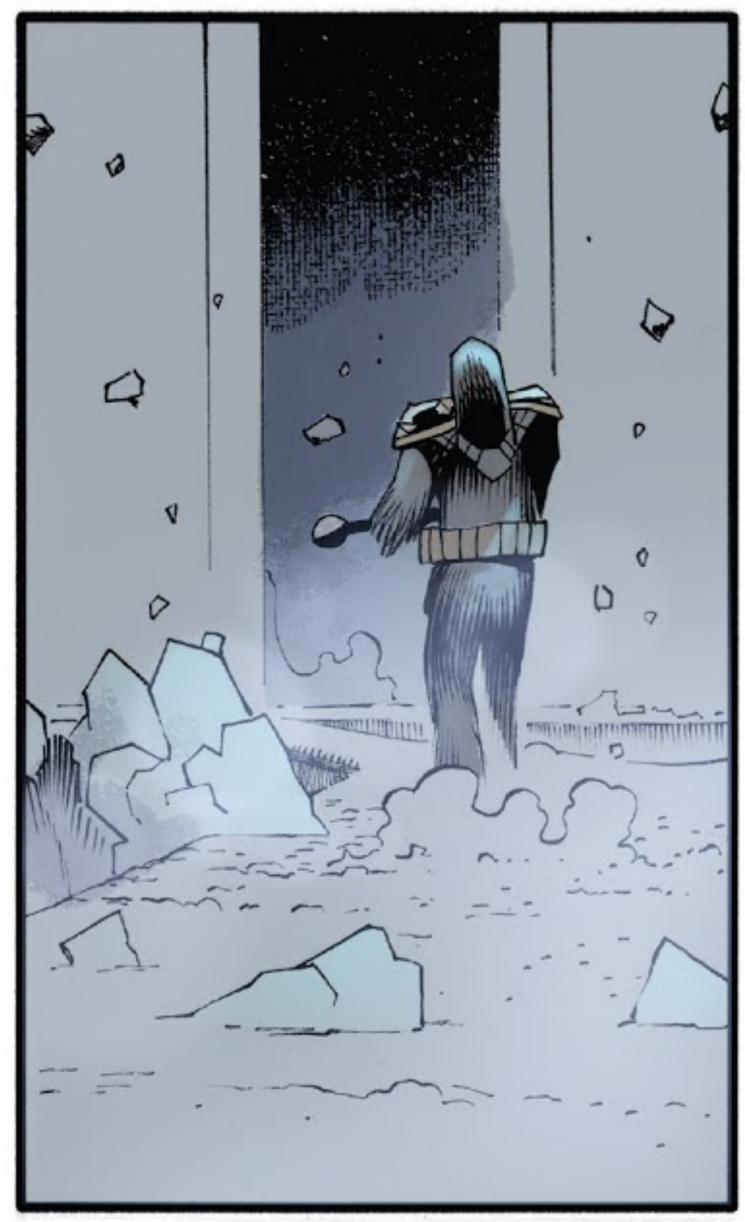
GRRRR.


DIE YOU--


HE'S GONE.

AFTER THEM.





A FORCE BRIDGE. ELEGANT, BEAUTIFUL, AND SURPRISINGLY EASY TO TRAVERSE! WE LEARN SO MUCH WITH EVERY STEP!

THE COMPUTER CORE SHOULD BE THIS WAY. FOLLOW M--

HELL.

MASTER APHRA...BLACK KRRSANTAN IS HERE.

HE TOLD ME TO PASS YOU A MESSAGE.

PASS HIM A MESSAGE.

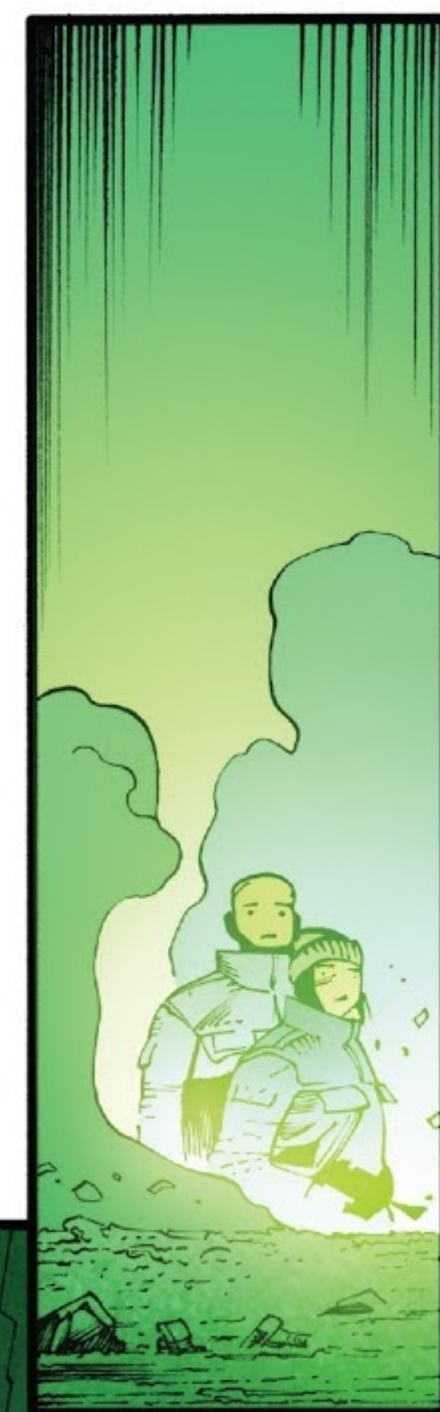
IF HE WAS DATING A BANTHA, SHE'D STILL BE THE LOOKER!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

HE IS LEAVING. IF YOU LIVE THROUGH THIS, YOU STILL OWE HIM. BYE-EEE!

I TRANSLATE MEANING, NOT HIS IDIOM, OF COURSE.

GET READY TO RUN.
THE BRIDGE! IT'S--
SLAMMMMM



BY THE CONSOLE...IT'S HIM! IMMORTAL RUR!

GOT TO ADMIT, I'VE SEEN MORE IMMORTAL.

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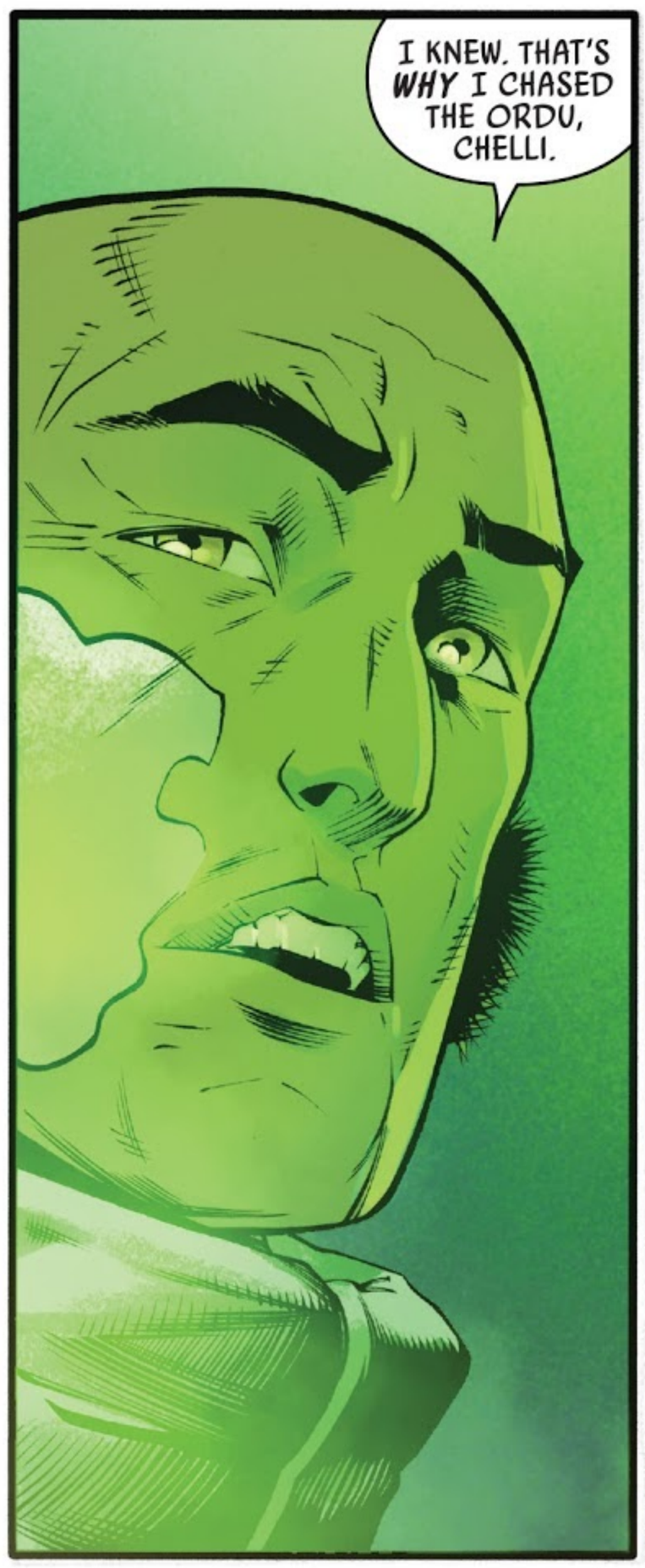
IT'S MISSING A CRYSTAL.
WE CAN'T REBOOT THE COMPUTER.
SO, DAD, YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE.
AND WE'RE GOING TO SIT HERE, NOT KNOWING ANYTHING UNTIL THE IMPERIALS CATCH UP...

I MEAN, YOU HAVE TO BE USED TO THAT. ALL THESE YEARS BELIEVING IN THE ORDU ASPECTU WITH LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE.
I WAS TRYING TO BRING LIGHT BACK TO THE UNIVERSE.

YOU WANTED TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE? YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW SCARY THE UNIVERSE IS.
I KNOW. I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FORGET.


I KNEW. THAT'S WHY I CHASED THE ORDU, CHELLI.

WHEN THE JEDI DIED, WE ALL SAW WHAT CAME NEXT...AND WE HAD TO TRY AND FIND A WAY OUT. I ALWAYS LOVED THE ORDU...BUT IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE GALAXY BURNED THAT I ACTIVELY CHASED THEM.
I WAS ONE MAN. I WAS NO WARRIOR. WHAT DIFFERENCE COULD I MAKE?

I COULD BRING BACK THE ORDU.
THEN WE COULD HAVE A GALAXY SAFE FOR MY DAUGHTER TO GROW UP IN.

LONA...YOUR MOTHER...DIDN'T AGREE. SHE THOUGHT WE SHOULD LIVE WITHOUT FEAR AND DAMN THE CONSEQUENCES.
MAKE A HOME OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE AND LIVE.

IT WASN'T ABOUT ME. IT WAS NEVER ABOUT ME.
DID SHE EVER SAY SHE HATED ME?

NO. SHE JUST THOUGHT YOU WERE WRONG.

THAT'S LONA. SHE LIVED HER LIFE WITHOUT COMPROMISE. NEITHER OF US COULD DEAL WITH THE IDEA WE WERE BOTH WRONG ABOUT WHAT WAS BEST FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY YOU WERE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE. WE WERE SO SCARED OF BEING BAD PARENTS THAT WE WERE THE WORST PARENTS.

I'M STILL DOING IT NOW.
I FORCED YOU TO COME... HERE.

THE SAVA YOU STOLE THE SYMBIOTES FROM DIED LAST MONTH.

HE HAD NO DESIRE FOR HIS POSTERITY TO BE UNDERMINED BY JUST PUBLISHING EVERYTHING YOU'D DONE...BUT HE SENT ME THE DETAILS. HE KNEW YOU HATED ME AND PRESUMED THE REVERSE WAS TRUE.
I LEAKED SOME OF IT.

IF YOU GET OUT OF HERE, IT'S EASY TO GET YOUR DOCTORATE BACK.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO--

NO, DON'T TELL ME YET.

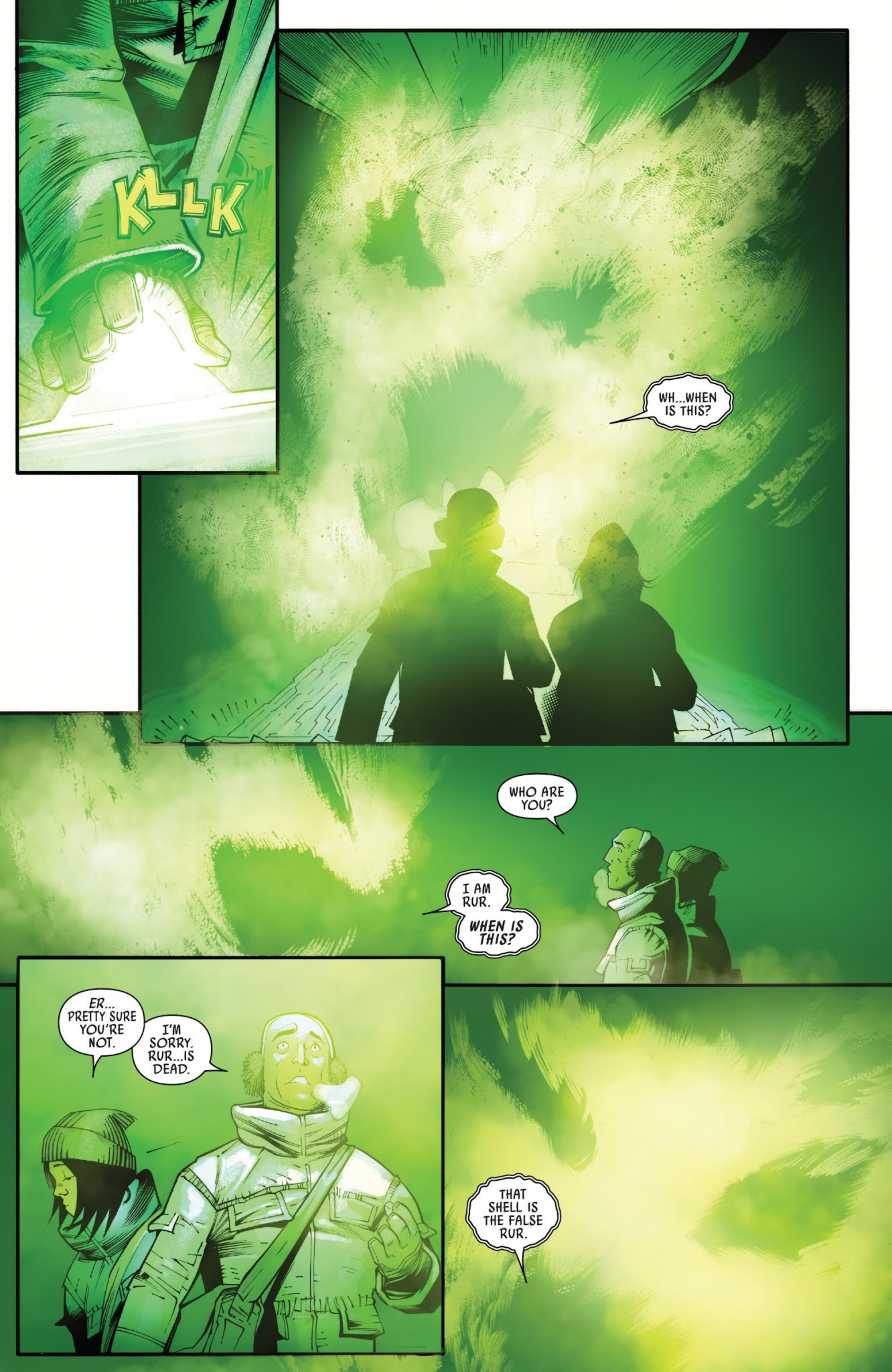
DON'T BE NAIVE.
IF YOU REMOVE THE GUN FROM MY HEAD, I MAY BE TEMPTED TO STAB YOU.

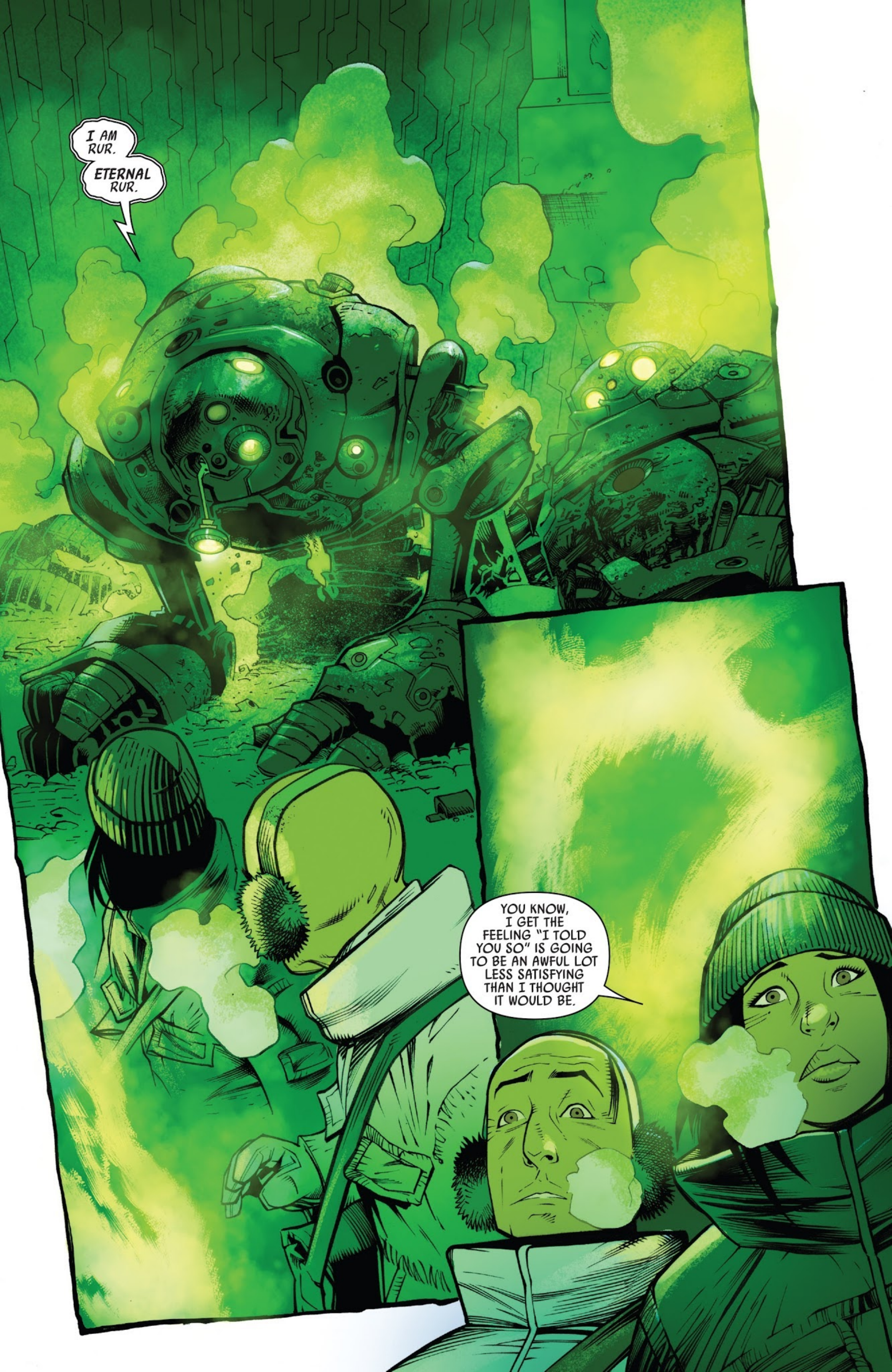
YOU WOULDN'T.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME AT ALL, DAD.

SO, DO YOU WANT TO TURN THIS THING ON AND FIND OUT WHAT THE HELL THE ORDU WERE UP TO?

WH-WHAT...
RUR THE NOT-SO-IMMORTAL HAD ONE.
I PALMED IT WHEN I SEARCHED HIM.
SO WHAT WAS *THAT?*
WE DON'T TALK ENOUGH.
SEEMED A GOOD TIME, WITH THE ABOUT-TO-DIE AND ALL.
BUT DAD... LISTEN.
THIS REBOOTS THE CORE COMPUTER. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO GET TO THE RECORDS.
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE RUR DIED TURNING THE SYSTEM OFF.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO KNOW THIS BADLY?


KLLK
WH...WHEN IS THIS?
WHO ARE YOU?
I AM RUR.
WHEN IS THIS?
ER... PRETTY SURE YOU'RE NOT.
I'M SORRY. RUR...IS DEAD.
THAT SHELL IS THE FALSE RUR.


I AM RUR.
ETERNAL RUR.
YOU KNOW, I GET THE FEELING "I TOLD YOU SO" IS GOING TO BE AN AWFUL LOT LESS SATISFYING THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE.

DOCTOR APHRA
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APHRA

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Rogue archaeologist Chelli Aphra is back to retrieving rare artifacts with a pair of homicidal droids and a Wookiee bounty hunter. Aphra's plans are suspended, however, when her estranged father gets her to join his search for the mysterious Ordu Aspectu.

Aphra and her father reach the long-lost citadel of the Ordu Aspectu and unleash Eternal Rur. However, when the pair awake, it appears the ancient Jedi may not be as friendly as they had hoped....

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The Citadel Of Rur.

CAPTAIN TOLVAN! THE PRISONERS HAVE TAKEN COVER IN THE LEVITATING CORE. THERE'S NO WAY ACROSS.

WE CAN BRING IN AN ASTROMECH AND TRY TO SLICE THE SYSTEM AND RE-INITIATE THE BRIDGE--

WE COULD...

...BUT *THIS* OPENS DIRECTLY INTO SPACE.

SIGNAL THE SHUTTLE AND BRING IT AROUND.

THEN WE CAN--

ETERNAL RUR!

ETERNAL RUR!

OPEN FIRE. NOW.

WHEN IS IT?!
WHEN IS IT?!
CHELLI APHRA...
LET'S MAKE A DEAL, RUR. I'LL TELL YOU WHEN IT IS...
...AFTER YOU TELL US WHAT HAPPENED.
TORTURE CAN TEAR THE ANSWER FROM YOUR IMPUDENT TONGUE.
YEAH, BUT TORTURE IS SOOOO SLOW.
YOU TELL US THE BASICS, I'LL TELL YOU THE TIME. HONEST.
HMM...
THIS IS LOGICAL.

"AFTER THE ENTRUVIA CONFLICT BETWEEN THE ORDU AND THE ORTHODOX JEDI, THE PEACE TREATY ALLOWED THE JEDI TO INSPECT THE ORDU'S WORK FOR SIGNS OF DANGEROUS HERESY.

"MY PRESENT RESEARCH WAS TO CREATE A COPY OF MY INTELLECT, PRESERVING MY KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL TIME. I DID NOT REALIZE WHAT I WAS ACTUALLY DOING...

"I WAS NOT MAKING A COPY. I WAS **MOVING** MY SENTIENCE, AND LEAVING AN EVIL GHOST INSIDE MY FLESHY BODY."

RIIIIGHT.

AND YOU HID THIS FROM "FAKE RUR," RIGHT?

I KNEW HE WOULD DENY THE TRUTH. IT WAS ONLY WHEN THE JEDI DEMANDED A CLOSE INSPECTION THAT I KNEW I HAD TO ACT.

IN MY NEW IMMORTAL STATE, I WAS ONE WITH ALL MACHINES, ABLE TO CONTROL THEM AS NATURALLY AS I ONCE MOVED MY LIMBS. IT WAS ALL THAT COULD DELIVER ME.

"I HAD TO SLAY THEM ALL AND ESCAPE. THE JEDI FELL. AMON AND FAKE RUR SURVIVED. THEY SWORE TO 'DEACTIVATE' ME, HIDING THEIR MURDEROUS INTENT BEHIND PRETTY WORDS!

"I SENT THE CITADEL HURTLING ACROSS THE GALAXY TO MAKE SURE REINFORCEMENTS COULD NOT LOCATE US. ONLY THE ORDU CRYSTALS COULD TRACK OUR BEACON, BUT THE JEDI WERE NOT THE ORDU--I WAS SAFE.

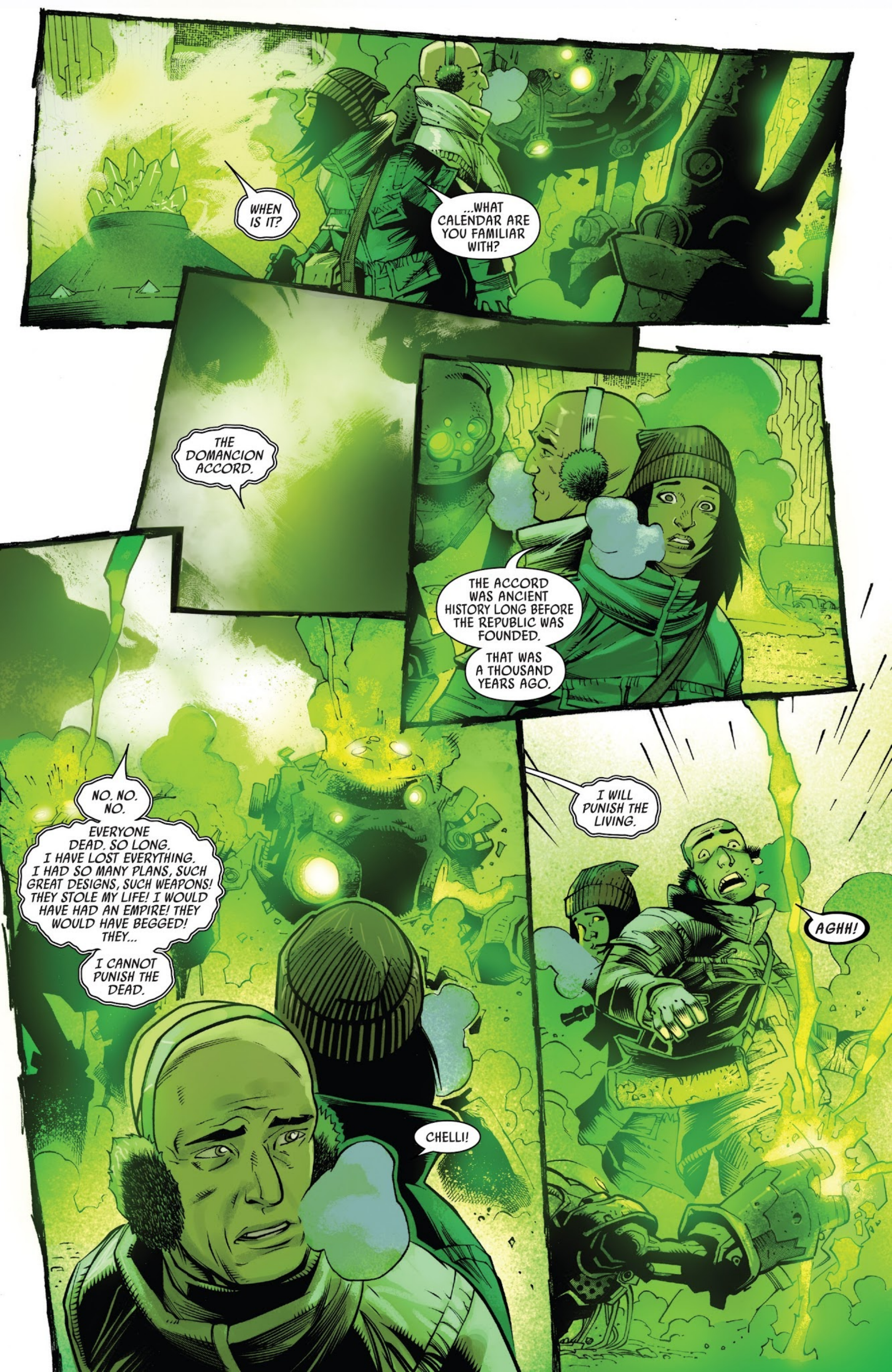
"AMON STOPPED THE POWER GENERATOR BEFORE I COULD KILL HIM. FAKE RUR CAME FOR ME.

"HE COULDN'T BLUDGEON HIS WAY TO THE CRYSTALS WITHOUT DESTROYING THE STATION... BUT THE FAKE RUR STILL HAD HIS FORCE POWERS.

"HE DISLODGED THE CRYSTAL AND I SOON LOST ALL CONSCIOUSNESS."

IT SEEMS THE DROIDS ACTED ON MY FINAL ORDERS, PURGING THE ORGANICS UNTIL THEIR POWER RAN OUT...

...FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL BATTERIES TO HAVE FAILED, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A CONSIDERABLE TIME...


WHEN IS IT?
...WHAT CALENDAR ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH?
THE DOMANCION ACCORD.
THE ACCORD WAS ANCIENT HISTORY LONG BEFORE THE REPUBLIC WAS FOUNDED.
THAT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.
NO. NO. NO.
EVERYONE DEAD. SO LONG. I HAVE LOST EVERYTHING. I HAD SO MANY PLANS, SUCH GREAT DESIGNS, SUCH WEAPONS! THEY STOLE MY LIFE! I WOULD HAVE HAD AN EMPIRE! THEY WOULD HAVE BEGGED! THEY...
I CANNOT PUNISH THE DEAD.
I WILL PUNISH THE LIVING.
AGHH!
CHELLI!

DAD!
I...I'M OKAY. YOU HAVE TO--
YEAH, I KNOW...
SO LONG, RUR...
NO!
NO!
GREAT.
WE'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE. WE'LL...
WE NEED A SHIP.
HEY! THE IMPERIALS HAVE A SHIP. THEY'RE OVER *THERE*. WE NEED TO MAKE THE BRIDGE. TO MAKE THE *BRIDGE* WE NEED A *CRYSTAL* AND *WE HAVE NO--*
RUR.
DESTROY THE CONSOLE. TAKE CRYSTALS FROM THERE...

OKAY, OKAY, OKAY. I'LL WORK OUT A WAY...
CHELLI, BE CAREFUL. BE QUICK. REMEMBER--IT'S ALSO THE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM.
IT WILL LIKELY LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WHOLE CITADEL.

AND THAT WILL BE THE LAST WE KNOW OF THE ORDU ASPECTU.

YEAH, DAD, AS IF YOU'VE EVER BEEN RIGHT ABOUT ANYTHING.

YOU RETURN TO BASK IN MY PRESENCE, MORTAL!

WELL, NOT REALLY. I'M AN ARCHAEOLOGIST.

I'M ALL ABOUT THE CAREFUL EXTRACTION OF ANCIENT ARTIFACTS...

...MOSTLY.
AH!
NO! YOU'LL DESTROY THE CITADEL!
YOU SOUND LIKE MY DAD.
YOU DOOM US ALL!
I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE.

HEY, ORDU ASPECTU!
YOU SUCK AT REDUNDANCY.
HMM.
YOU LOOK IMPORTANT.
OKAY...
...BRIDGE, PLEASE?

HEY, IMPERIALS! LOOK BEHIND YOU!
GET OVER HERE!
TRUST US!
PULL BACK!
HURRY!
AND...

...GOODBYE BRIDGE.
THIS PLACE IS SELF-DESTRUCTING! WHAT DID YOU DO?
ER... NOTHING?
SIGNAL YOUR SHIP AND BRING IT AROUND!
I ALREADY HAVE. WHAT HAPPENED TO YOURS?
IT...IS BUSY? I--ER-- MAYBE LOST IT?
IT'S COMPLICATED.

COME ON, DAD! ALMOST THERE...
...AND DON'T DIE, ALL RIGHT?
PILOT! LEAVE, IMMEDIATELY!
YOU KNOW, I SWORE FASCISTS WERE BETTER AT FOLLOWING ORDERS THAN THIS...
IMPERIAL DISCIPLINE IS NOT THE ISSUE AND...
BE QUIET.
PILOT! DISEMBARK! IMMEDIATELY!
OH. THEY'RE DEAD. WELL, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN IT.
OKAY, I'LL FLY.
I'LL--
ETERNAL RUR.

KRAK
ETERNAL RUR!
ETERNAL RUR!

OH! I'M SORRY. I WAS NOT CLEARED TO STRANGLE YOU.

PHEW.

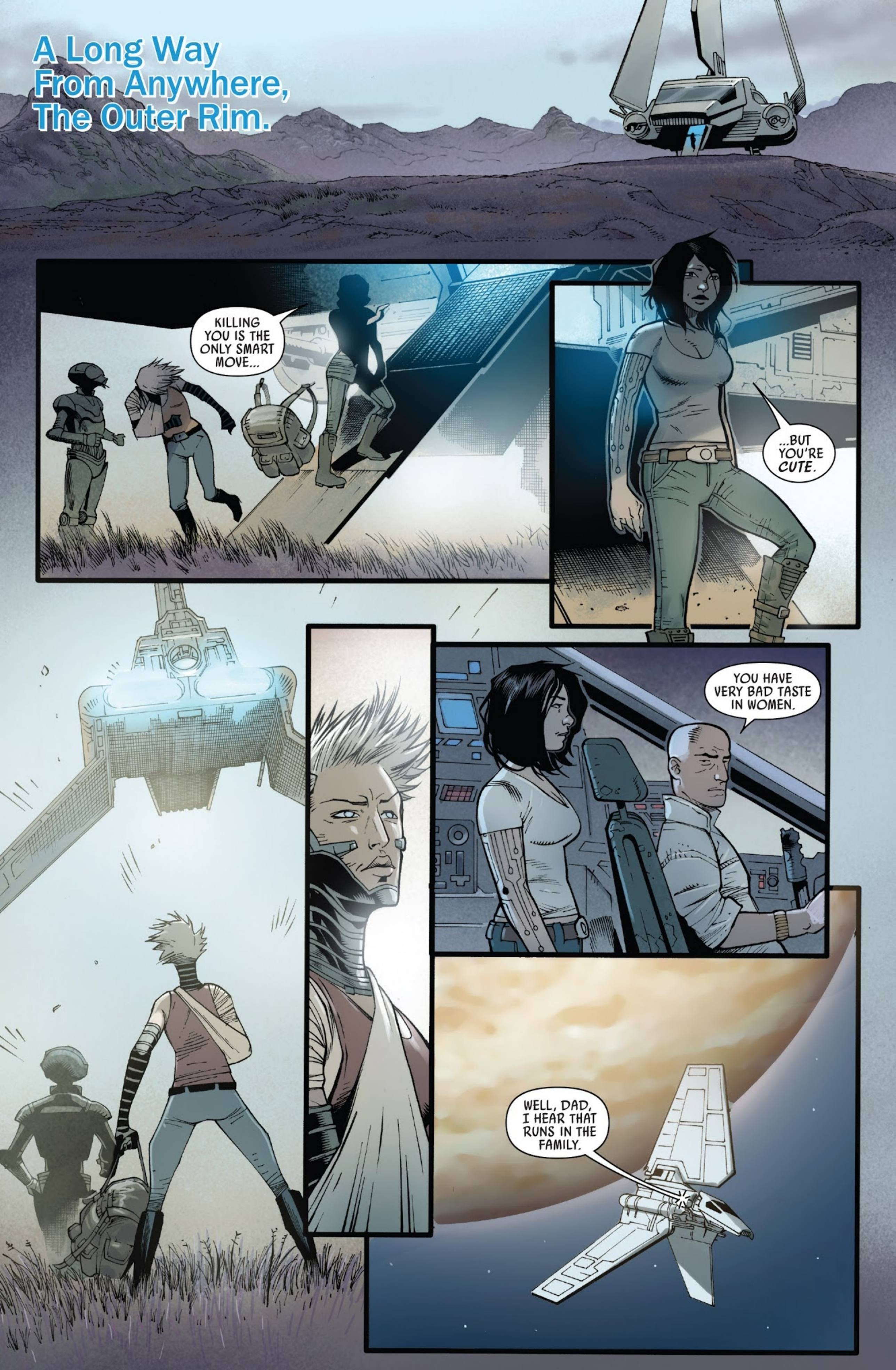
BEHOLD THE TWILIGHT OF THE ORDU ASPECTU.

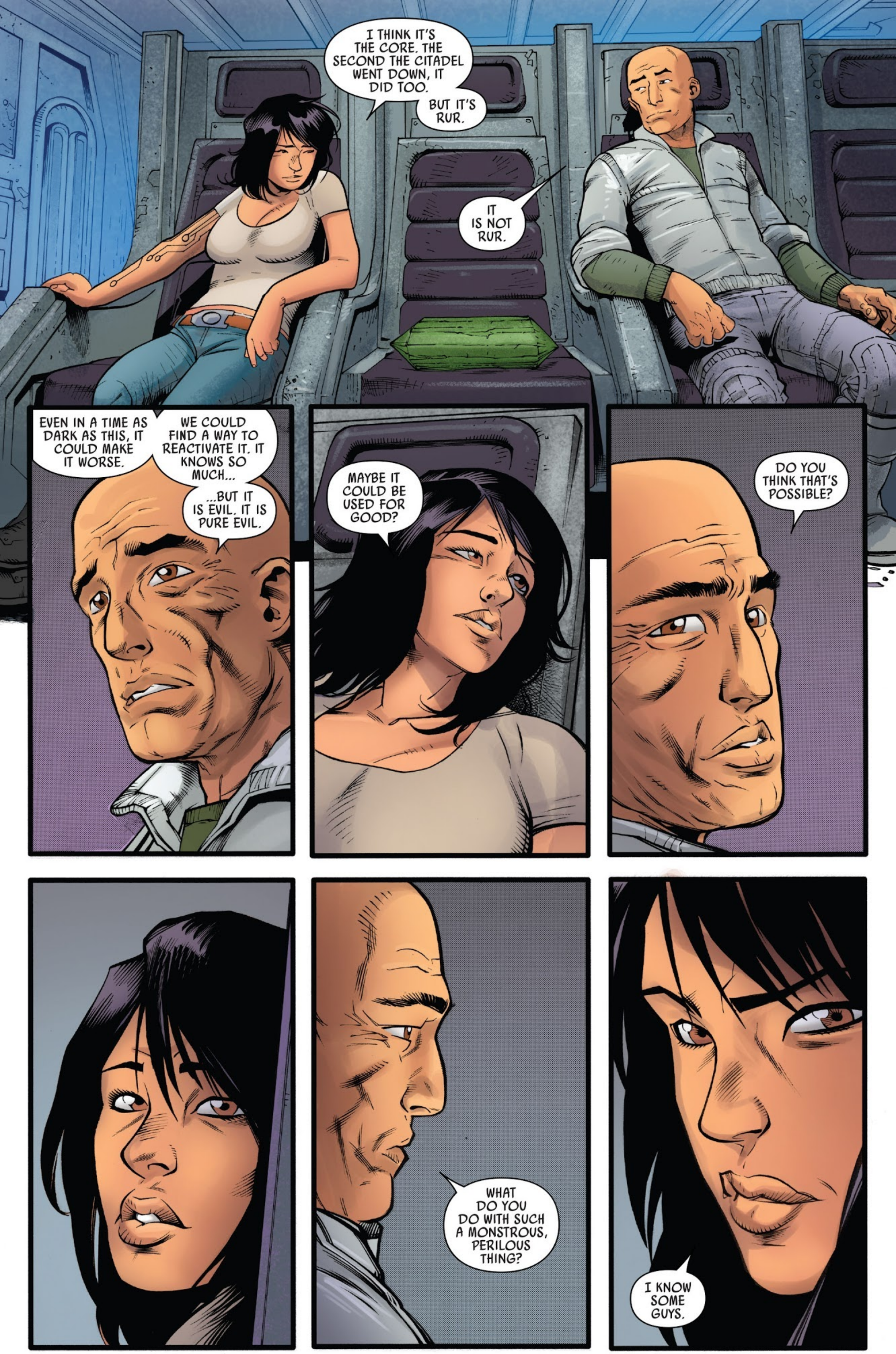
WE'RE GOING TO LIVE.
WE ARE.
SO, NOW...

...WHO ARE YOU?

I...WELL, I'M...
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER.
THANKS, DAD.
WHUMP

A Long Way From Anywhere, The Outer Rim.




I THINK IT'S THE CORE. THE SECOND THE CITADEL WENT DOWN, IT DID TOO.
BUT IT'S RUR.
IT IS NOT RUR.
EVEN IN A TIME AS DARK AS THIS, IT COULD MAKE IT WORSE.
WE COULD FIND A WAY TO REACTIVATE IT. IT KNOWS SO MUCH...
...BUT IT IS EVIL. IT IS PURE EVIL.
MAYBE IT COULD BE USED FOR GOOD?
DO YOU THINK THAT'S POSSIBLE?
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH SUCH A MONSTROUS, PERILOUS THING?
I KNOW SOME GUYS.

Quarantine World III,
Kallidahin Space.

WILL IT BE SAFE?

IT'S NOT A SAFE UNIVERSE, BUT IT'S THE SAFEST PLACE FOR IT. THE KALLIDAHIN TAKE QUARANTINE SERIOUSLY.
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

THIS IS... HARD. IT IS NOT WHAT I WISHED FOR, BUT THE TRUTH HAS TO MAKE ME STRONG.
IT WAS A FALSE HOPE TO LOOK TO THE PAST FOR DELIVERANCE. I MUST PRAY THERE IS HOPE IN THE FUTURE, AND STRIVE TO FIND IT.

THANK YOU.
IT'S OKAY, DAD.

AND, MUSHY STUFF OVER, YOU'LL SORT OUT THE DOCTORATE THING, RIGHT?
OF COURSE!

GOOD. NOW, WE GET RID OF THIS INCRIMINATING HEAP, YOU CAN GET BACK TO THAT LOOKING-FOR-HOPE THING AND I CAN HEAD BACK TO THE COSMANTIC STEPPES.

"AS SOON AS I'M *DOCTOR* APHRA AGAIN, I HAVE A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS."

WELL, MY GOOD DROID, HERE'S SOME UNIQUE ARTIFACTS FROM THE STEPPES. SELL TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

YOUR PROFITS.

HIGHEST ISN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE.

GUESS I WON'T BE RETIRING ON *THIS* ONE.

I TOLD YOUR... BROTHER I'D BE BACK!

(BROTHER, RIGHT?)

I EVEN THREW IN TEN PERCENT EXTRA!

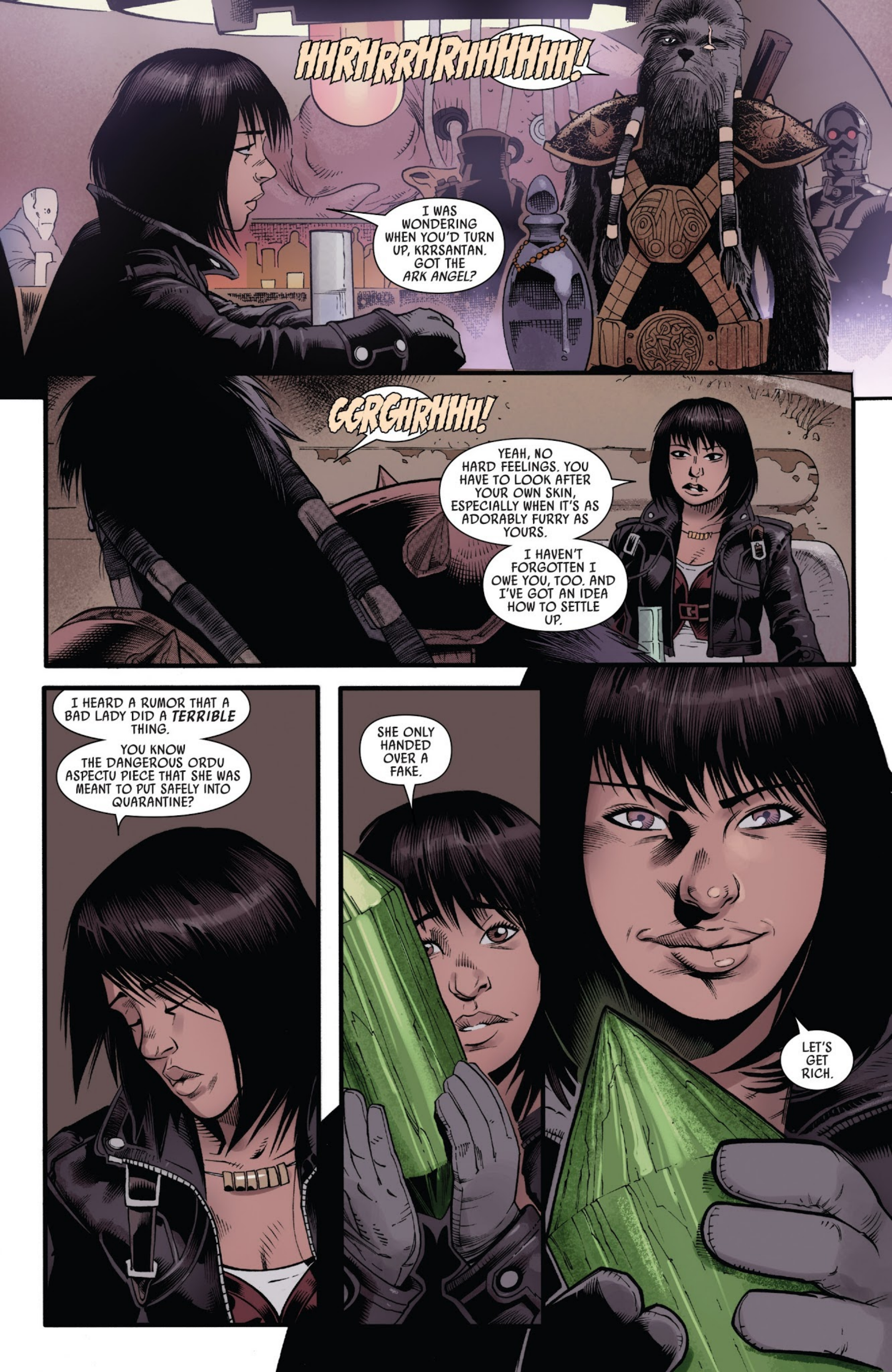
YOU *SAID* YOU WOULD RETURN IMMEDIATELY.

THERE WERE... COMPLICATIONS.

THERE ALWAYS ARE WITH YOU, APHRA... BUT THE DEBT IS SETTLED. THE SHIP'S PAID FOR.

WHERE IS IT?

GOOD QUESTION.


HHRHRRHRHHHHHH!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D TURN UP, KRRSANTAN. GOT THE ARK ANGEL?
GGRGHRHHH!
YEAH, NO HARD FEELINGS. YOU HAVE TO LOOK AFTER YOUR OWN SKIN, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S AS ADORABLY FURRY AS YOURS.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN I OWE YOU, TOO. AND I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW TO SETTLE UP.
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT A BAD LADY DID A TERRIBLE THING.
YOU KNOW THE DANGEROUS ORDU ASPECTU PIECE THAT SHE WAS MEANT TO PUT SAFELY INTO QUARANTINE?
SHE ONLY HANDED OVER A FAKE.
LET'S GET RICH.

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